

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: AB/105/19/T

Location: 1a Torton Hill Road, Arundel, BN18 9HF

Description of works: Reduce height by 4m, reduce lateral canopy by 2.5m and crown lift by 5m to 1no. lime tree

Reasons Given: General/cyclical maintenance obligations

Comments on Application:

Lime / *Tilia* sp. Approx. height: 28m Average spread: 8m Age class: Mature

- This is a large, prominent landmark tree; highly visible from surrounding properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, it has public amenity value.
- Outwardly this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and stable. It has previously been the subject of major crown reduction work (effectively a high-level pollarding exercise), from which it has grown-on well.
- The proposed reduction in crown volume is significant, although necessary to ensure the tree is retained in a structural state appropriate for its location.
- Overhead clearance above the carriageway is adequate and already in excess of 5metres. That said, the proposed crown lifting to 5metres height on all aspects would only involve the removal of small diameter epicormic growth arising from the main stem.
- The removal of dead or imminently dangerous branches is an exception and does not require permission, although in respect of the latter those undertaking are required to notify this authority at the earliest opportunity and works should only be to the extent that the immediate threat to person(s) or property is abated. Any work desired beyond that which is absolutely necessary requires a formal application.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is necessary to mitigate a developing risk of structural failure at height and so justified on arboricultural grounds.
- While a temporary loss of aesthetic value is inevitable, satisfactory canopy renewal and recovery should occur if the work is undertaken to a high standard and at an appropriate time of year.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following conditions:

Conditions to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- Where whole branches are to be removed and final cuts made close to the trunk or branch union they are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010
- Where branches are to be shortened back the final cuts are to be made at the correct angle shown in BS3998:2010 and adjacent to a live bud or lateral.
- The removal of crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.
- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during either the late-spring to summer (May to August) *preferable* or mid-winter (late-December to early-February) *acceptable* periods. The work proposed must only be undertaken during these periods.

Reasons: In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

- *See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter*

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

