

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner
Planning Application Ref: AB/74/20/T
Location: Land adjacent to Dalloway Road, Arundel Road, West Sussex, BN18 9HJ
Description of works: Fell 3No. ash trees
Reasons given: Health and safety

Comments on Application:

Note: Tree numbers below (e.g.T66) are taken from the applicant's submitted survey, prepared by Middlemarch Environmental Ltd, April 2017.

T66 & T67 Ash / <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Height: 15-20m	Spread: 0-5m	Age class: Early mature
T70 Ash / <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Height: 15-20m	Spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature

- T66 & T67 – Outwardly both trees appear generally stable, although they exhibit low crown density and carry a high percentage of deadwood suggesting a poor physiological state. These are woodland fringe trees, of asymmetric form and lean towards/over rear garden of 1 Birch Close.
- T70 – Outwardly appears generally stable, although an established decay event has colonised the main stem. Fresh brackets (susp. *Inonotus hispidus*) have emerged between 4 and 8metres height. Previously identified 2017 by Arboricultural Consultant. Structural integrity may well be substantially compromised. A more compact crown and enjoys shelter from surrounding trees. Crown density is moderate, upper crown shoot extension is poor.
- These trees are visible from adjacent properties and in part from the public highway. As such, they have some amenity value, but more importantly are ecologically valuable constituents of this Ancient Woodland.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is necessary to remove the hazard of whole tree or large part failure, with associated risk of significant harm to persons or property. As such, it is justified on arboricultural grounds.
- There will be no significant loss of public amenity on completion of the proposed works although an ecological deficit will be incurred.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following condition:
Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -
 - All finished tree stumps are to be left at a safe height or near to ground level and untreated, with the exception of T70 that must be left with an untreated standing stump of minimum 2m height above ground level.
- **Reasons:** To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team