

Planning Officer : David Easton

Planning Application Ref: AW/106/14/T

Location : 9 & 10 Faresmead, Aldwick (Applicant 14 Gilwynes)

Description of works: Cut back the branch overhang of the garden by 4m and also establish a 4m ground clearance.

Applicants Reasons: The low branch overhang dominates the rear garden and casts significant shade.

Comments On Application:

Grp 660 2 x Beech and 4 x Hornbeams

Height = 10 to 12m Radial Branch Spread = North 7m Age = Semi Mature

- This is a young hedge line which has been allowed to develop beyond normal hedge proportions into tree form
- The branch spread to the north side over the garden of No 14 is low and excessive and causing significant nuisance.
- These tree would cope with hard pruning back and there is plenty of live growth to cut back to and they would readily respond to this pruning work.
- The tree owners consent will not be required in this instance as the work will all be carried out on the applicants side of the hedge and have no impact on the owners and will not require access to their garden to carry out the works.

Recommendation:

I **Approve** of these the works that have been applied for in order to abate a nuisance:-

- Crown lift on the north side **only** to establish a 4m ground clearance.
- Cut back the branch spread on the north side **only** by 4m making final cuts adjacent to living growth points.

Condition To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- *Where whole branches are to be removed final cuts close to the trunk or branch union are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010 and all branches which need to be shortened are to be cut at the correct angle and adjacent to a live bud or lateral as defined and illustrated in BS3998:2010.*
- *Attention is drawn to the fact that some trees could provide suitable habitat for bird nesting (ivy and cavities) and bat roosting (ivy, branch cracks and cavities) and this might at certain times of year influence and possibly restrict the form of management which can be applied. Given the legal constraints imposed by the Habitat Regulations and the Wildlife and Countryside Act and the fact that it is a criminal offence to disturb or destroy nest sites, this may necessitate expert ecological advice being sought before proceeding with these recommendations. As a minimum requirement it will be necessary for the appointed Tree Contractor to climb the trees and verify that there are no birds nesting or bats present in splits; holes and cavities prior to commencement of works.*

Reasons:-

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

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist