

Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: AW/111/19/T

Location: 63 Barrack Lane, Bognor Regis, PO21 4DE

Description of works: Prune limb on eastern aspect by maximum 3m to 1 No. horse chestnut tree

Reasons Given: Fouling overhead (BT) cables routed through crown

Comments on Application:

Horse chestnut / *Aesculus hippocastanum* Approx. height: 12m Average spread: 6m Age class: Early mature

- This tree appears to be outwardly healthy and stable with a relatively unmodified and attractive crown profile.
- It grows at the front of the property and is prominent roadside, with potential long-term landscape value. As such, it has public amenity value.
- The applicant has expressed concern about the potential for abrasion to the overhead cable from branches directly touching, especially during episodes of high wind speed.

Conclusions:

- This tree has potential to become a high profile specimen tree of significant public and visual amenity and so must be carefully pruned so as to maintain integrity of utility apparatus and respect natural tree form.
- Some careful and selective pruning is necessary to ensure free passage of the cable through the crown and so the application in principle is justified on arboricultural grounds; although I find the work description problematic as it could result in permanent spoiling of that aspect of the tree and the formation of unnecessarily large wounds.

Recommendations:

- As it stands, I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Advisory:

- I would like to see the applicant submit a revised specification for lesser work such as described below, which would seem to address their concerns whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:
 - Reduce/remove small branches (<75mm diameter) as necessary to achieve no more than 0.5 metres clearance from around overhead (BT) cable routed through the crown.

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- If the applicant is prepared to re-submit in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following conditions being applied:

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.

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

