

Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: AW/12/18/T

Location: 9 Chawkmare Coppice, Bognor Regis

Description of works: Crown Reduce 1No. Beech by 5 metres and Remove 1 trunk from 1No Beech tree

Reasons Given: Trees of very low amenity value

Comments on Application:

Beech (x4), Sycamore (x1) *Fagus sylvatica*, *Acer pseudoplatanus* Average Height: 6m Average Spread: 1.5m
Age: Semi-mature

- These five small trees of linear grouping and evenly spaced, represent a lapsed hedgerow remnant of similar age and stature. They have been historically maintained at approx. 2.5m height, as evident from established 'knuckles'.
- They are discreetly situated and visible only from the neighbouring property 5 Chawkmare Coppice to which they boundary along the rear garden.
- They are of apparent good health and erratic form. Several individuals possess twin or multiple stems. One such erratic stem is from the sycamore, that which is proposed for removal.
- The extent of proposed crown reduction work would in effect result in the loss of these trees; although from my site meeting with the applicant I am reassured that height reduction would be in the order of 2-3metres and respecting the established knuckles.
- The reasons given for the work are not sufficient on their own to justify the proposed work, although I agree with the assertion. They have little if any amenity value.

Conclusions:

- I am satisfied that the applicant seeks to retain these trees and restore them to a manageable height appropriate for their location.
- There is discrepancy between the written work proposal and verbal affirmation of same; and minor inaccuracy in determination of tree type. That said, neither work proposal is objectionable and so I feel it would be unnecessary on this occasion to seek a revised application.
- There will be no loss of public amenity on completion of the proposed works.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team