

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner

Planning Application Ref: **AW/140/19/T**

Location: **Kings Mews, St Georges Gardens, Queens Fields East, Bognor Regis, PO21 5SN**

Description of works: **Crown reduction of 2m to 1no. field maple tree**

Reasons Given: To achieve adequate clearance of building to facilitate ongoing maintenance

Comments on Application:

London plane / *Platanus x hispanica* Approx. height: 18m Average spread: 9m Age class: Mature

- The subject tree has been incorrectly identified and regarded as a group rather than an individual. As it stands, the application could be refused on the basis of inadequate information provided. That said, it is clear from site inspection, that this large plane tree dominates the area and is the only obvious candidate for the work proposed and justified.
- This is a large tree with a full and spreading crown. Outwardly it appears to be in a fine physiological state and structurally sound. It is a landmark tree and fine example of its type, both highly visible from numerous properties and commercial and recreational areas. It has the potential to be of long-term landscape value.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce selected branches on a specific aspect to achieve adequate clearance of built structure is justified and achievable without detriment to the visual amenity provided by this tree. That said, the applicant has sought *crown reduction* work which is not appropriate, as this could be correctly interpreted as intent to reduce overall dimensions which if enacted would irrevocably spoil the tree.
- The proposal to reduce both the height and lateral spread on all aspects (the correct interpretation of *crown reduction*) by 2m has not been justified on arboricultural grounds and would undermine its visual amenity value and impact in the landscape.

Recommendations:

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

Advisory:

- I would like to see the applicant submit a revised work specification such as detailed below, which would seem to address their concerns whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:
 - Reduce back branches on north-east aspect only (approaching flank wall of 10 St Georges Gardens) to achieve a maximum of 2.5m clearance from said dwelling.

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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.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

