

Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: **AW/218/19/T**

Location: **24 Margaret Close, Bognor Regis, PO21 3AA**

Description of works: **Crown reduction of 2-3m and crown lift to 3m 2no. common lime trees**

Reasons Given: Obstruction of driveway and sightlines from entrance to property

Comments on Application:

2x lime, large leaved / *Tilia platyphyllos* Approx. height: 12m Average spread: 4m Age class: Early mature

- Both trees appear generally stable and in fine physiological condition at this time. They share an attractive crown profile despite past heavy modification.
- They grow at the front of the property and are prominent within the close, being highly visible from surrounding properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, they have high public amenity value.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will probably be necessary throughout the remaining life-span of these trees, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds. If the work is undertaken to a good standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the tree's long-term vitality and visual amenity.
- The proposal to reduce their overall height and spread with a view to restricting their growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following conditions:

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.
- The removal of crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.
- The long-term vitality of these trees is best respected when significant pruning work such as the proposed crown reduction, is undertaken during the late-spring to summer period (May to August) or mid-winter (late-December to mid-February) period. That element of the work proposal must only be undertaken during these periods.

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

