

ADC PARKS & GREENSPACE ARBORICULTURE

FROM: Dafydd Lloyd

TO: Janice Chapman

PLANNING APPLICATION: AW/318/14/T

ADDRESS: 3 Balmoral Close Bognor Regis PO21 4PP

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Fell 1 No Ash tree to just above ground level & remove main stems above pollard points (11-12m) & reduce smaller stems & branches by 7m while leaving existing live branch stubs to 1 No Lime tree.

INSPECTION DATE: 3 Balmoral Close Bognor Regis PO21 4PP

RECOMMENDATION:Objection ☐No Objection ☒Split Decision ☐Comment ☒Recommendation ☒Suggested Conditions ☒Tree Replacement ☐Dead/Dangerous ☐CA & Amenity Value ☐

T1 Species: Lime *tilla spp* **Height:** 16 meters **Average Branch Spread:** 6 meters
Crown Condition: fair **Form:** fair **Age Class:** mature **Height to First branch:** 3 meters
Height and type of main unions: trifurcates (pollard point) at 5 meters

T2 Species: Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* **Height:** 17 meters **Average Branch Spread:** 4.5 meters
Crown Condition: poor **Form:** poor **Age Class:** early mature **Height to First branch:** 3 meters
Height and type of main unions: bifurcates at 1 meter, and trifurcates at 3 meters

Comments:

- These trees are situated in the high amenity area of Aldwick. The surrounding landscape has a good mix established trees of varying age classes. The trees outlined in this application are standing in the rear garden of the outlined dwelling, and are therefore visible from the main highway (Balmoral close) outside. **T1** actually standing just south of the onsite dwelling (3 Balmoral close), and **T2** is abutting the southern boundary with 7 Lucerne court.
- As stated on this application, **T1** is covered by an active TPO. However **T2** is not covered by an active TPO.
- The applicant has stated the desire to re-pollard **T1**. This individual has evidently had previous pruning operations that have seen this tree pollarded at a height of 5 meters. Currently there is up to 11 meters of extensional regrowth from the established pollard points. This would indicate, *as the tree submitted report has stated*, that this large

extensional regrowth is the result of a 'lapsed pruning regime' on **T1**. The submitted tree report has also identified the likely cause of a primary limb to 'break out'. The submitted tree report has put the likely cause of this loss down to wind throw. Considering the condition of the union (and the knowledge this limb failed in high winds, as stated by the resident when I visited the site), the conclusion reached in the submitted tree report is likely to be correct.

- **T2** – it is evident this individual is in a poor overall condition. This can be attributed in part, to the clear abiotic damage (which has exposed areas of heartwood) in the basal area and the subsequently degradation that has taken place. At this point, it is important to understand that Ash as a species is generally considered a bad compartmentaliser (this refers to a given individual's ability to partition a pathogen off from spreading to the rest of a given host). The submitted tree report has also cited the increased exposure experienced by **T2** (due to the loss of a primary limb from **T1**). Also cited is the poor main union at 1 meter. Both these factors would increase the likelihood of a systemic failure occurring.

Recommendation:

- **It would therefore be my recommendation that proposed operation of repollarding T1 by removing limbs of no more than 12 meters to the established pruning points should be allowed to take place**, as the regime of pruning to the established pollard points is likely to increase the retention span of a given individual.
- **I would also have no objection that the proposed operation of felling T2**, as its current condition and predicted lifespan does mean it is not suitable for a TPO order.
- The following condition should be adhered to when completing the proposed pruning operation to **T1**;

Condition:

Crown Reduction

All side branches to be retained should be at least **1/3rd** in diameter of the removed branch. Pruning cuts must be flat and smooth, kept as small as possible by cutting at an optimum angle and should not exceed **100mm** in diameter.

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

Dafydd Lloyd
Arun District Council
Tree Officer