

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: **AW/344/18/T**

Location: **9 Faresmead, Bognor Regis, PO21 3DQ**

Description of works: **Crown lift of 4m to 5m No beech trees and branch shortening on south aspect of 2m to 4m No hornbeam trees**

Reasons given: 1. Street light clearance 2. Improve garden clearance

Comments on Application:

Beech & Hornbeam / *Fagus sylvatica*, *Carpinus betulus* Average height: 10m Average spread: 3m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from a distance these trees appear to be in a fine physiological state and form part of an established boundary tree group. All are constituent parts of the group and important for its cohesion.
- They grow at the rear of the property and can be seen from surrounding properties and public highway (road and footway). They are a good distance from dwellings and do not present any obvious problems to same.
- There is some ambiguity in the 'work specification' and 'description of works' although it is easy to determine the intention from general text and supporting documents. For the sake of clarity, the applicant does not seek to undertake crown reduction or height reduction, as defined in the British Standard for Tree Work. The reduction or removal of branches as necessary to achieve maximum of 2m clearance from adjacent street lighting columns; 4metres overhead clearance above the garden; maximum of 2m lateral reduction of branches remaining (south aspect only) – is the work specification being determined here.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds as it seeks to meet a statutory requirement and to maintain reasonable enjoyment of the garden, with respect to natural tree form.
- The proposal to reduce selected branches on a specific aspect to maintain reasonable use of garden space is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- There will be no significant loss of public amenity on completion of the proposed works.

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.

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