

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: AW/365/17/T

Location: 2 Merton Close, Bognor Regis

Description of works: 2m Crown Reduction to 1No. Ash tree.

Reasons Given: To maintain a balanced shape.

Comments On Application:

- Tree is a twin-stemmed semi-mature ash of apparent good health. It has been subject to historic crown reduction work on several occasions, as recently as 2015. Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining life-span of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location. Furthermore, a degree of 'containment' is necessary due to its high growth potential and close proximity to the public footway. Girdling roots with associated ground heave further support the cycle of management so far applied.
- This tree is visible from surrounding properties and occupies a prominent position within the cul-de-sac. The majority of front garden trees are managed with a similar pruning regime.

Conclusions:

- If the work is undertaken to a good standard, then repeat crown reduction at this time is unlikely to have a negative effect on its long-term vitality.
- This tree has the potential to rapidly outgrow its location and would likely cause such damage to the adjacent footway as to require its removal, long before it reached full maturity. The proposal to reduce its overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is justified and consistent with previous works granted consent by the Local Planning Authority.

Advisory:

- The applicant declares residential status at a property different to that where the above tree is located and does not confirm their ownership of same or claim agent status, therefore we are obliged to advise that any consent granted by the Local Planning Authority does not by association give permission to undertake the proposed work without first seeking permission from the tree owner (if applicable).

Recommendations:

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

Condition - 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.

Reason - In order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery, in the interests of tree health and long-term vitality.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team