

Recommendation Report for Works to Tree(s) on trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO)

REF NO: AW/62/19/T

LOCATION: 12 Alexander Close
Aldwick
Bognor Regis
PO21 4PS

PROPOSAL: Crown lift by removing no larger than secondary branches (maximum diameter of 50mm) to achieve a maximum of 6metres overhead clearance on all aspects. Reduce back branches on west aspect of tree only, to achieve a maximum of 4metres clearance from built structures.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above
TREES	The tree outlined in this application is located in the rear garden.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	Dwelling with gardens to front and rear.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	Residential area.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

AW/41/12/T	Prune back 1 no. Beech tree by approximately 5 metres overhanging garden of No 10.	Refused 24-04-12
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Relevant history noted.

REPRESENTATIONS**REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED:**

Aldwick Parish Council

Aldwick Parish Council:

No response received from Aldwick Parish Council.

No representations received from nearby occupiers.

COMMENTS ON REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED:

Comments noted.

CONSULTATIONS

Arboriculturist

CONSULTATION RESPONSES RECEIVED:

Tree Officer comments:

- This tree appears to be outwardly healthy and stable. It is unfortunate that scaffold limbs growing low on its southern aspect have been so crudely truncated - it is otherwise of fine form.
- The upper limb and branch framework has achieved good symmetry and presents an attractive crown profile, albeit on an imperfect but nonetheless strong main stem.
- It has significant influence over neighbouring gardens to the rear of both 12 and 10 Alexander Close but not so as to be excessive or intolerable. It is a large tree with a full and spreading crown; visible from numerous properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway), as such it has public amenity value.
- The applicant proposes crown reduction principally to achieve adequate clearance of built property, although this will have the effect also of restricting its growth potential and reducing seasonal 'nuisance' from leaf fall.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- The applicant proposes a potential 2.5metre reduction of top height and lateral spread. If the full extent of meterage is applied on all aspects this would exceed the recommendations in British Standard 3998:2010 - Tree Work and represent a damaging loss of crown volume.
- I acknowledge that it may not be reasonable to allow this tree to achieve its full growth potential and a degree of 'containment pruning' could therefore be appropriate; it is a tree of public amenity value that can be satisfactorily managed without recourse to such extensive crown reduction work at this time.
- I am unable to concur with the reasons stated as being sufficient to justify the work now proposed. .
- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendations:

- 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:
 - Crown lift by removing no larger than secondary branches (maximum diameter of 50mm) to achieve a maximum of 6metres overhead clearance on all aspects.
 - Reduce back branches on west aspect of tree only, to achieve a maximum of 4metres clearance from built structures.
- 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:

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

COMMENTS ON CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

The application has been amended in accordance with the advisory comments received from the Tree Officer and therefore the application description has been amended accordingly.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICES

PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE:

NPPG	National Planning Practice Guidance
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework

POLICY COMMENTARY

The above policies are general and, other than online Planning Policy Guidance under references ID 36-090-20140306 and ID 36-091-20140306, are not specific to trees.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND/OR LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states:

"If it appears to a Local Planning authority that it is expedient in the interest of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees.... they may for that purpose make an order"

The works to the trees are to be judged having regard to amenity

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is considered that there are no other material considerations to warrant a decision otherwise than in accordance with the Development Plan and/or legislative background.

CONCLUSIONS

Following the comments from the Tree Officer it is recommended consent be approved subject to the following conditions and informatives.

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

The Council in making a decision should be aware of and take into account any implications that may arise from the Human Rights Act 1998. Under the Act, it is unlawful for a public authority such as Arun District Council to act in a manner, which is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

Consideration has been specifically given to Article 8 (right to respect private and family life) and Article 1 of the First Protocol (protection of property). It is not considered that the recommendation for approval of

the grant of permission in this case interferes unreasonably with any local residents' right to respect for their private and family life and home, except insofar as it is necessary to protect the rights and freedoms of others (in this case, the rights of the applicant). The Council is also permitted to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest and the recommendation for approval is considered to be a proportionate response to the submitted application based on the considerations set out in this report.

DUTY UNDER THE EQUALITIES ACT 2010

Duty under the Equalities Act 2010

In assessing this proposal the following impacts have been identified upon those people with the following protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation).

The proposal would have a neutral impact on the protected characteristics.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE CONDITIONALLY

- 1
 - 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

- 2

INFORMATIVE: The applicant should note that under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, with only a few exceptions, it is an offence for any person to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild birds while the nest is in use or being built. Birds nest between March and September and therefore removal of dense bushes, ivy or trees or parts of trees etc. during this period could lead to an offence under the act.
- 3

INFORMATIVE: This notice does not give authority to destroy or damage a bat roost or disturb a bat. Bat species are protected under Section 39 of the 1994 Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations (as amended), the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) and the 2000 Countryside and Rights of Way Act. It is illegal to damage or destroy any bat roost, whether occupied or not, or disturb or harm a bat. If you are aware that bats roost in a tree(s) for which work is planned, you should take further advice from Natural England (via the Bat Conservation Trust on 0845 1300228) or an ecological consultant before you start. If bats are discovered during the work, you must stop immediately and contact Natural England before continuing.