

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: **AW/68/21/T**

Location: **19 Leecroft, Bognor Regis, PO21 SSY**

Description of works: **Crown reduction of 3no. beech trees to height approx. 6m and spread approx. 6m**

Reasons given: 1. Leaves block gutter 2. Excessive shade over garden

Comments on Application:

3x Beech / *Fagus sylvatica* Approx. height: 8m Average radial spread: 2.5m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from distance (footway) these trees appear to be in a fair physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary. Their form is moderate, having been severely lopped at around 6metres in height whilst branch framework has recovered albeit erratically.
- They are long-established constituents of a linear group, constrained by development on opposing sides, although clearly visible from the nearby public footway. As such, they have some amenity value.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of these trees, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce overall height and spread with a view to restricting their growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- While a temporary loss of aesthetic value is inevitable, satisfactory canopy renewal and recovery should occur if the work is undertaken to a high standard and at an appropriate time of year.

Recommendation:

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

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- Part a) 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
- Part b) 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.
- Part c) 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.

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

Advisory:

- The long-term vitality of these trees is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

