

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: A/124/18/T

Location: Beech Glade, 4 Blue Cedars Close, Angmering BN16 4DW

Description of works: Crown reduce 1No. Beech tree by 2-3m.

Reasons Given: None given

Comments on Application:

Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Height: Approx. 22m	Average spread: 6m	Age class: Mature
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- This tree appears to be outwardly healthy and stable with a relatively unmodified and attractive crown profile.
- It grows at the front of the property and is prominent within the close. It can also be seen in part by traffic accessing/exiting this part of the estate. As such, it has public amenity value.
- The attractive upswept form of this tree has been largely dictated by its past proximity to established trees. There are a relatively high number of ascending stems and scaffold limbs arising from tight unions. The absence of obvious 'natural bracing' supports the intention for a degree of crown reduction work.
- The applicant proposes a potential 3metre 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.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is unnecessarily severe and if enacted to the maximum extent of 3m on all aspects would result in damaging loss of crown volume.
- 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:
 - Reduce top-height by no more than 2m.
 - Reduce radial spread by no more than 1m. Overlong branches that protrude beyond the crown's common profile may be reduced to a greater extent to complement the majority.

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- 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 All Approved Works: -

- 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.
- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during either the mid-summer (mid-June to mid-September) or mid-winter (mid-December to mid-February) periods.

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