CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date inspected: 21st December 2022

Case Officer: Adam Halpin

Reference: A/267/22/T

Location: 1 West Drive, Angmering, BN16 4JE

Proposal: Crown reduction to 1no. horse chestnut to leave height 6m and spread 6m

Reason: Pre-emptive work to reduce risk of limb failure

Comments on Application:

Horse chestnut / *Aesculus hippocastanum* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

Outwardly and with restricted view of lower main stem (obscured by perennial vegetation) this tree appears to be sound and stable; assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary. It is a large tree which occupies a prominent and elevated position roadside.

There is clear evidence of recent pruning work across the crown, involving removal of dead wood and possibly dangerous branches, which would qualify as an exception.

There are several cavities associated with historic pruning wounds, typical of the species at this stage of life. Bark death below recent pruning cuts on two scaffold limbs and irregular crown shape post-pruning suggest a tree in decline, although no obvious cause was evident to me or in supporting statement made by the applicant/agent.

The application is made from a position of concern following recent limb failures rather than based on existing condition, the former having been addressed by substantive pruning.

Further reduction in crown volume, especially to the extent now proposed, would incur additional physiological stress upon the tree and accelerate its decline.

Conclusions:

This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.

The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in 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.

Recommendation:

I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer
Environment and Climate Change