

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: A/64/18/T

Location: Worthing Audi, Roundstone By-Pass Road, Angmering

Description of works: Copper Beech (T1) - fell due to approved construction works having compromised the life expectancy. Replant with one *Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata' in the same place. Copper Beech (T2) - fell due to approved construction works having compromised the life expectancy. Replace with 5 x *Sorbus aria* 'Majestica' in locations recommended by the Tree Officer.

Reasons Given: Approved construction works have compromised their life expectancy

Comments on Application:

T1 & T2 Beech, purple-leaved *Fagus sylvatica Purpurea* Height: Approx. 14m Average spread: 5m Age: Early mature

- Both trees appear generally stable, free from obvious structural defect and in fair physiological condition at this time.
- Recent soil/root disturbance has undoubtedly compromised their ongoing health and vitality. It follows that their life expectancy has been diminished.
- T1 and T2 are significant features in the local streetscene, with greater exposure and visibility following site clearance of boundary vegetation.

Conclusions:

- It is clear from the amount of intrusion into (by way of excavation to facilitate construction) and soil compaction over anticipated rooting areas, that both trees will experience physiological distress as a direct consequence. It is not possible so soon after these episodes of damage to accurately predict the extent of future loss of vitality or safe, useful life expectancy.
- The trees appear outwardly sound and no evidence of structural instability has been provided in support of the application. As such, these trees continue to provide significant visual amenity and have not been proven to present an unacceptable level of risk for their location, so should be retained.
- The tree work proposed in the application has not been justified on arboricultural grounds.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team