

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 17th December 2025

Case Officer: Jonny Cooper

Reference: BE/128/25/T

Location: The Old Cottage, 70 North Bersted Street, Bersted, PO22 9AE

Proposal: Crown reduction to 1no. ash (T1) to leave a height of 20-22m and spread of 20-22m.

Reasons: Proximity to dwelling. Risk management

Comments on Application:

Ash / <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Height: 15-20m	Radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature
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From roadside this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state. The upper crown is largely unmodified and therefore most visually appealing. It is highly visible and contributes to the character and appearance of the conservation area.

There appears to be adequate clearance of the public highway and adjacent dwellings, although it is foreseeable branches might soon touch the latter, especially during inclement weather.

The proposed whole (i.e. height and spread on all aspects) crown reduction is seemingly to address a perceived risk of harm. Whilst there is no doubt a risk exists, it has not been demonstrated by the applicant that this is at an unreasonable level.

A justification for works to a protected tree should be strong and usually evidenced, where there is high amenity value offered.

Conclusions:

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.

Recommendation:

We refuse consent for this application.

Informative:

Branches that are directly interfering with the fabric of the dwelling can be pruned back to remove risk of immediate harm to same. That work qualifies as an exception from the normal application process as it

deals with an actionable nuisance. It is important not to exceed what is required as minimum to achieve that aim or an offence may be committed.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer

Environment and Climate Change

From: Nicola Spencer on behalf of Planning.Responses
Sent: 18 December 2025 18:05
To: Planning Scanning
Subject: FW: BE/128/25/T
Attachments: BE.128.25.T.pdf

PL – Consultation- Tree officer response

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From: Mark Warwick <Mark.Warwick@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 December 2025 17:01
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Freya Clewley <Freya.Clewley@arun.gov.uk>; Jonny Cooper <Jonny.Cooper@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: BE/128/25/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Regards,

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer, Environment and Climate Change

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www.arun.gov.uk