

**Planning Officer:** Mr F Gardner

**Planning Application Ref:** BE/23/20/T

**Location:** 78 North Bersted Street, Bersted, PO22 9AQ

**Description of works:** Crown reduction to 1no. yew tree to height and spread 8.8m on North and South aspect and 8m on East and West aspects

**Reasons given:** To reduce; interference with telephone cables and casting of shade, deposition of plant material, faecal deposits from roosting birds – affecting 76 North Bersted Street.

**Comments on Application:**

**Yew /*Taxus baccata***                      Approx. height: 12m                      Average spread: 4m                      Age: Mature

- This tree can be easily viewed from the adjacent road and neighbouring property (76), from the latter aspect its crown has been regularly trimmed back to the boundary wall - to achieve satisfactory clearance of side access and building. A number of larger branches have been poorly reduced back, presumably for the same reasons. This has resulted in an unfortunate loss in part of crown uniformity.
- It is located close to a (listed?) high flint and brick wall, which from the West appears intact and only obviously subject to superficial repair. Located close to the property's front boundary, it is highly visible to passing traffic and from surrounding properties.
- The above description of work (crown spread in metres post pruning) does not fully correspond with the proposal detailed by the applicant. That said, it would seem unreasonable and possibly aggravating to insist on a revision at this late stage. Confidence can be gained from the applicant's stated intention to leave the crown in a balanced/uniform state (west side excepted).
- The above description of work also refers to reduction of the crown height, although this has not been sought by the applicant nor specified to any extent. It is to be assumed that the existing height of the tree will remain intact.

**Conclusions:**

- This is an aged tree of notable stature and prominence, which appears to be in good overall condition. While its aesthetic value has been somewhat denuded by successive and frequent trimming on its West aspect, it retains a 'natural' silhouette typical of its species and displays fine form on the majority of aspects.
- If the work is undertaken to a good standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the tree's long-term vitality and visual amenity.

**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.

**Advisory:**

- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during either the late-summer (July/August) or late-winter (January/February) periods. The work should only be undertaken during these periods.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team