

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: BN/50/19/T

Location: 7 Paddocks, Barnham, PO22 0HU

Description of works: Crown lift to 3m on all aspects and 5.5m above carriageway only and crown reduction by 3m to 1no. silver birch tree

Reasons Given: None given

Comments on Application:

Silver birch / <i>Betula pendula</i>	Approx. height: 11m	Average spread: 5m	Age class: Mature
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- This tree appears to be outwardly healthy and stable with an attractive crown profile. It is prominent at the front of the property and can be clearly seen from numerous residential dwellings and to highway users (footway and carriageway). As such, it has public amenity value.
- It has previously been the subject of crown reduction pruning (c2006) from which it has grown-on well.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining life-span of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.
- Low branches are encroaching into the public highway and are potentially hazardous to traffic.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds. It seeks to maintain reasonable enjoyment of the garden and satisfactory clearance of built structure (dwelling) and public highway (carriageway and footway). Furthermore, repeat crown reduction pruning is appropriate as the structural integrity of scaffold limbs may be compromised around the earlier pruning wounds (now concealed).
- If the work is undertaken to a good standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an unduly adverse effect on the tree's long-term vitality.
- The proposal to reduce its overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following conditions:

Conditions To Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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
- 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 removal of crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.

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

Advisory:

- Birch trees have poor tolerance of hard pruning (crown reduction) and are prone to bleeding. The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as the proposed crown reduction, is undertaken during either the summer (June to August) or mid-winter (late-December to early-February) periods.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

