

Planning Officer: Amber Willard
Planning Application Ref: BR/115/18/T
Location: 25 Servite Close, Bognor Regis
Description of works: Ash – Reduce whole canopy by up to 2m
Reason Given: Excessive shading
Comments on Application:

Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* Height: Approx. 18m Average spread: 9m Age: Early-mature

- This tree appears to be in good physiological condition. It has been subject to crown height reduction work previously and has responded with vigour, typical for a healthy example of its type. This, together with historic low branch removal and the earlier presence of companion trees have led to it developing a relatively slender and upright form.
- It is clearly visible from surrounding properties and the public highway; contributing to the impressive high canopy locally, most of which are ash that together represent a notable arboricultural feature.

Conclusion:

- 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.
- If the work is undertaken to a good standard and at the right time; then crown reduction as proposed is unlikely to have an adverse effect on its long-term vitality.
- There will be a slight and temporary reduction in the tree's visual amenity, which is an unavoidable consequence of this work.

Recommendations:

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

Conditions To Be Applied To Approved Work:-

- The removal of crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to establishing 'knuckles' (past position of pruning cuts) so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.
- 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 proposed work should only be undertaken during either the mid-summer (mid-June to mid-September) or mid-winter (mid-December to mid-February) periods.

Reason - In order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery, in the interests of tree health and long-term vitality.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team