

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner

Planning Application Ref: BR/65/20/T

Location: 106 Chichester Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 5AA

Description of works: Crown reduction to 2no. beech trees (T1&T2) to finishing height 12m and spread 10m. Remove large bough growing towards neighbouring flats with large rot pocket at 3m and reduce selectively by 1-2m to leave a balanced tree after bough removed to 1no. walnut tree (T3).

Reasons given: T1 & T2 – to balance canopies T3 – hazard abatement and to balance remaining canopy

Comments on Application:

T1/T2 Beech / <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Height: 15-20m	Average spread: 0-5m	Age class: Mature
T3 Walnut / <i>Juglans regia</i>	Height: 10-15m	Average spread: 0-5m	Age class: Mature

- **T1/T2** - Outwardly and from a distance (restricted view) they appear to be in a fine physiological state. Two beech trees providing mutual support and sharing an attractive profile. T2 is subordinate to its companion and with asymmetric form. Together they are a landmark feature, growing from within raised garden alongside a busy public highway junction. As such, they have high amenity value.
- **T3** - Outwardly and from a distance (restricted view) appears to be in a fair physiological state. Slightly asymmetric form and with a relatively unmodified upper crown. Truncated limb with decay pockets giving rise to the bulk of boundary/building overhang.
- Discreetly located between neighbouring dwellings and partly obscured from public view by T1/T2 and its companion.
- The extent of stem/limb/branch removal is not made clear in the work proposal. Removal of the stem (which displays an open cavity at around 3m height) would create a very large wound close to the union of other major stems. Either way, there is little to be gained from leaving a pronounced stump other than to avoid the risk of a poorly targeted final cut.

Conclusions:

- **T1/T2** – These trees are a significant feature in the local landscape and appear to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of their landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.
- **T3** – The intent behind the work proposal is reasonable and justified on arboricultural grounds. This is a tree that is becoming compromised by ongoing requirements for maintenance pruning and inevitably will become subordinate to the beech trees.
- This species has a poor tolerance of hard pruning and are prone to bleeding from wounds at certain times of year, so the need for quality work undertaken at an appropriate time is critical to their ongoing health and vitality.

Recommendations:

- As it stands, I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Advisory:

- I would like to see the applicant agree to remove their work proposal for T1/T2 from the current application, so that we can approve the work proposal for T3 in good time.
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- If the applicant is prepared to revise their application in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following condition and further advisory comment:

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.

Reasons: In the interest of the tree's 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:

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

