

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: EG/19/18/T

Location: 11 Collins Close, Eastergate

Description of works: Reduce crown of 1 No. Beech tree by 2-3m, thin crown by 10-15% & remove rubbing branches

Reasons Given: Prevention of decay/disease. Promote new growth and allow light to penetrate the lower canopy

Comments on Application:

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| Beech | <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> | Height: Approx. 15m | Average Spread: 7m | Age: Mature |
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- Tree appears to be in a fine physiological state with no obvious signs of disease, when assessed from ground level. It has fine form, with a full un-modified crown and low sweeping branches.
 - It is multi-stemmed with developing compression, such that a future light crown reduction or supplementary bracing may become necessary to mitigate the risk of separation.
 - It occupies a prominent and elevated position within the cul-de-sac and by virtue of its size and age is an established focal point for local residents. It is visible to traffic passing along the nearby main arterial road and is of a size which contributes to the high tree cover locally.
 - Crown thinning work is proposed. This is rarely an appropriate form of pruning, especially on beech which often rely on the establishment of interior branches to maintain good health and vitality. Crossing/fused limbs and branches may be providing a degree of natural 'bracing' effect.
 - Consent is not required from the local planning authority to remove items of deadwood.

Conclusions:

- It has not been demonstrated that this tree requires crown reduction work at this time to mitigate a risk of failure nor have alternative support measures such as non-invasive cable bracing been proposed.
- An increase in light-levels to the crown interior may actually be harmful and the modification from thinning work could allow winds to exert damaging loading forces on otherwise protected stem and branch unions.
- 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.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team