

**Planning Officer:** Zac Denton

**Planning Application Ref:** EG/40/18/T

**Location:** 11 Collins Close, Eastergate

**Description of works:** 2-3m crown lift, deadwood canopy & remove rubbing branches to 1 No. Beech tree

**Reasons Given:**

**Comments on Application:**

|              |                        |                     |                    |             |
|--------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>Beech</b> | <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> | Height: Approx. 15m | Average Spread: 7m | Age: Mature |
|--------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|

- 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.
- Low growth is a developing nuisance for footway users and so crown lifting on this aspect is necessary. Low growth on remaining aspects may provide some valuable screening but could be removed without undue harm to the tree's ongoing health and vitality.
- Consent is not required from the local planning authority to remove items of deadwood.

**Conclusions:**

- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition.
- If undertaken sympathetically, the tree surgery proposed in the application would not result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.
- Crossing/fused limbs and branches may be providing a degree of natural 'bracing' effect. Care must be taken to only remove those crossing branches which are failing to provide additional support and/or have experienced friction rubbing to the extent they are damaged and at high risk of breaking.

**Recommendations:**

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

**Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -**

- 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.

**Reasons:** In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team