

From: Mark Warwick
Sent: 04 October 2018 12:40
To: Zac Denton
Cc: Planning.Responses
Subject: FG/130/18/T

Zac

Please find attached my comments/observations for your consideration.

Regards,

Mark

Mark Warwick | Tree Officer, Greenspace, Arun District Council | Location: Bognor Regis Town Hall, Clarence Road, Bognor Regis, West
Sussex, PO21 1LD
Internal: 37974 | External: +44 (0) 1903 737974 | E-mail: mark.warwick@arun.gov.uk
Visit Arun's web site at www.arun.gov.uk  Save the environment - think before you print.

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: FG/130/18/T

Location: 166 Littlehampton Road, Ferring, Worthing BN12 6PH

Description of works: 1 x Hornbeam tree - Crown thinning by 30% on 59 Ferring Lane side & crown lifting to 6m above ground on 59 Ferring Lane side only

Reasons Given: Blocking light to garden and dwelling. Excessive leaf fall.

Comments on Application:

Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* Height: Approx. 12m Average Spread: 5.5m Age: Mature

- This tree appears to possess good vitality and be structurally sound. It has an attractive crown profile despite fading evidence of historic 'lopping' of limbs low on its east aspect, which may well explain a discreet area of branch congestion that is beyond remedial pruning.
- It occupies a prominent position at the north end of an established linear native tree group. There are several visually important hornbeam trees throughout this group. As a group feature they are highly visible to vehicle and pedestrian traffic. They also dominate the outlook from adjacent properties but appear to have been well respected and subject only to careful management.
- This tree has low to moderate growth potential and despite report of substantive growth in recent years is unlikely to become much larger in height or spread.
- The applicant seeks to improve ambient light levels onto the property during the afternoon/evening and reduce the quantity of leaf fall.

Conclusions:

- Although seasonal nuisance and shading from trees can be a genuine concern; in isolation they are not sufficient reasons to justify the work proposed and must be tolerated if we are all to enjoy the wider benefits of quality trees in our urban environment.
- Overhead clearance above the applicant's property is at the upper limit of what is recommended in respect of the tree's ongoing health and vitality. Crown lifting to the extent proposed would not comply with the requirements of British Standard 3998:2010 – Tree Work
- *Crown thinning* work rarely provides a benefit to the tree and often only a short-term increase in light levels. It can also drastically alter tree dynamics and natural defences against wind pressure. The sudden exposure of central crown areas to such winds can result in significant damage, especially if undertaken to the extent proposed.
- It is at a distance from the applicant's dwelling that permits its existence in harmony throughout its anticipated lifespan if managed sympathetically and without recourse to high volume pruning.
- The tree is a notable 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 reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendations:

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

Advisory:

- Were the applicant to submit a new application with the following work specification; this would be acceptable and may reduce the oppressive effect from branches growing directly toward the dwelling:
 - Reduce lateral extent of branches on east aspect only, by no more than 2metres.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team