

Planning Officer: Miss K Welch

Planning Application Ref: FG/166/21/T

Location: 11 Grange Park, Ferring, BN12 5LS

Description of works: Fell 1no. horse chestnut (T1)

Reasons given: Unsightly, drops leaves into swimming pool, proximity to neighbouring property

Comments on Application:

Horse chestnut / *Aesculus hippocastanum* Height: 5-10m, Radial spread: 0-5m, Age class: Mature

- This tree appears to be in a fair physiological state, despite having been subject to drastic crown pruning and significant disturbance of ground conditions in recent years.
- There is 2-3metres of secondary growth from where the stems have been truncated. The pool has been excavated deep into the likely rooting zone of this tree and much of the surrounding area is hard landscaped.
- It is visible from adjacent property but only in small part from publicly accessible roads. As such, it provides little visual interest to the surrounding area.
- A replacement tree is unlikely to flourish at the same location and be harmonious with its surroundings, although there is scope to do so elsewhere on the plot.

Conclusions:

- It is always unfortunate to see what was likely a fine ornamental tree, reduced over time to a glorified stump and left in such an undignified state. Long-term prospects are poor, given its confined setting, hostile ground conditions and reduced form.
- The tree may remain alive for many years, although much diminished in the landscape and likely aggravating for the current occupier(s).

Recommendation:

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

Once the tree has been felled then a replacement tree is to be planted elsewhere in the rear garden and to within 20metres.

This is to be of Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the horse chestnut tree.

The species shall be selected from the following: -

Field maple *Acer campestre*

Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*

English oak *Quercus robur*

- **Reasons:** To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Advisory:

- The entire plot is affected by Tree Preservation Order (TPO/FG/1/89). The supporting Schedule and Plan(s) can be obtained from Arun District Council's Planning department – planning@arun.gov.uk

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team