

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: FG/206/18/T

Location: 3 Alpha Court, Sea Lane, Ferring, BN12 5EB

Description of works: Re pollard to previous pollarding points to 1 No. Common Lime tree

Reasons Given: Health and safety concern (stem decay)

Comments on Application:

Lime / *Tilia* sp. Height: Approx.15m Average spread: 4m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance it appears to be in a fine physiological state with an attractive crown profile, despite past heavy pruning. Close inspection of the main stem reveals an established fungal decay event, which is likely to be significant for its long-term structural integrity.
- It grows at the rear of the property and can be seen from neighbouring dwellings but only with difficulty from publicly accessible land.
- It has been the subject of repeat crown modifications resulting in a dense, compact form.
- The proposal to repeat crown reduction work (or re-pollard) is normally accompanied by the removal of epicormic shoots (secondary growth) from about the main stem and crown-break. Although not applied for, this would be acceptable if undertaken at the same time.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- The proposal to reduce its overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- By virtue of its discreet location; there will be no significant loss of visual amenity on completion of the proposed works.
- Although I am unable to concur with the reasons stated as being sufficient to justify the work now proposed, there has been sufficient extension growth since the last operation (c2012) to support the current work proposal.

Recommendations:

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

Conditions To Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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
- The removal of crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.
- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late-spring to summer (May to August) period. The work proposed must only be undertaken during this period.

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