

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: FG/44/21/T

Location: 47 Sea Lane Gardens, Ferring, BN12 5EQ

Description of works: Fell 1no. cherry (T5A) and replacement with 1no. cherry tree. Reduce height of 1no. willow (T3) by 30% below previous cut point to 5m in height above ground level

Reasons given: T3 – Overshadowing neighbouring property T5A - Dead

Comments on Application:

T3 (TPO ref.) Willow / <i>Salix</i> sp.	Height: 10-15m	Radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Early mature
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T5A (TPO ref.) Cherry / <i>Prunus</i> sp.	Height: 0-5m	Radial spread: 0-5m	Age class: Early mature
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- T3 - Outwardly and from distance (roadside) this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state (and assumed to be so in the absence of any information/evidence provided to the contrary). It has previously been the subject of hard crown-reduction pruning. It is visible from the highway and surrounding properties.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.
- T5A – Discreetly located within the expansive rear garden, visible in part from neighbouring property. Clearly a tree in advanced state of decline (photographs submitted).

Conclusions:

- T3 - The principle of reducing the tree's crown is sound and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority although the extent now proposed exceeds the requirements of British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work-Recommendations. Such work would likely result in harm to the health and vitality of the tree with large pruning wounds being formed as well as undermining its visual amenity value and impact in the landscape.
- T5 – The removal of a dead tree (subject of an Order) is an exception from the normal application process but requires a five working day notice to the local planning authority (LPA). The applicant can proceed with the removal of this tree without further recourse to the LPA, although a duty exists to provide a replacement.

Recommendations:

- As it stands, I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.
- **I would like the applicant to be invited to agree to a revised proposal for lesser works** (such as described below) as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay. Such work would go some way to addressing their concerns whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:
 - Reduce overall height and spread (repeat pollard) back to established 'knuckles.

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- If the applicant is prepared to re-submit in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following condition being applied:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Works: -

T3 Willow

- Part a) 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
- Part b) 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.
- Part c) 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.

T5A Cherry

- Part d) Once the tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 4metres.

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 cherry tree.

Reasons: In the interest of T3's continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

- ***See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter***

Advisory:

- The long-term vitality of tree **T3** is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

