

Recommendation Report for Works to Tree(s) on trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (

REF NO: FG/4/15/T

LOCATION: 7 Ferring Lane
Ferring

PROPOSAL: Remove dead branches from 1No. Pine tree

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above.
SITE AREA	N/A
TOPOGRAPHY	Predominantly flat.
TREES	The tree the subject of this application.
BOUNDARY TREATMENT	Hedging to front at approximately one metre in height. The northern side boundary next to the tree in question consists of close boarded fencing at approximately 1.8m in height.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	A detached bungalow with brown brick elevations and a hipped roof with plain brown tiles. There is a PVCu porch to front and a detached garage to the rear.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	Predominantly residential in character, there are mainly bungalows and two storey detached properties in the area. There are a number of other significantly tall trees in the vicinity and the site lies on the approach to Ferring village located to the south.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

None.

REPRESENTATIONS

Representations received:

Ferring Parish Council

Ferring Parish Council would like to object to this application. We must advise that there has been a previous application to fell this tree as it is an obstruction in the centre of the driveway. We have inspected the tree as too has a tree warden, there is only one single branch that appears dead. Ferring Parish Council would like all trees to be replaced when they require radical reduction.

1 x Letter of Objection:-

Whilst I appreciate the need to remove branches if they are proven to be unsafe I am aware

report

that a previous application was made to remove the whole tree. I am concerned that any pruning may not be sympathetic and the beauty of this tree would be lost.

Comments on Representations received:

The works proposed are not to fell the tree and consist of the reduction of two branches that have the largest lateral spread. The tree has been inspected by the Council's Tree Officer who has stated that the proposed small scale reduction is unlikely to have lasting adverse effects on the overall form or longevity of the tree. It should also be noted that the applicant does not need consent for the removal of the aerial deadwood.

CONSULTATIONS

Arboriculturist

Consultations responses received:

Council's Tree Officer:-

Comments:

- The tree is situated in the area which has a reasonable stocking density of varying species and varying age classes, mostly small and medium broadleaf standards.
- The tree highlighted in this application is situated in the front garden of the outlined property and is covered by an active TPO.
- The applicant has applied to remove the dead branches and reduce the two lowest limbs on the east and the west side of T1 by no more than 0.5 meters.
- The proposed reductions on the live branches of 0.5 metres would mean the reduction of two branches that have the largest lateral spread. As these branches have clearly the largest spread in the canopy, a reduction small scale reduction is unlikely to have lasting adverse effect on the overall form of T1. Also this level of reduction is unlikely to have a lasting impact on the longevity of T1.

Recommendation:

- As the applicant does not intend to apply to remove aerial deadwood, I would have no objection to the proposed operation.
- I would also have no objection to the operation of the reduction of the lateral spread of the two largest lowest limbs (spanning to the east and to the west) by no more than 0.5 meters.
- The following conditions should be adhered to;

Conditions:

Crown Reduction

All side branches to be retained should be at least 1/3rd in diameter of the removed branch. Pruning cuts must be flat and smooth, kept as small as possible by cutting at an optimum angle and should not exceed 100mm in diameter.

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

Crown Clean

The Crown Clean should consist of deadwood and stub removal where all cuts should be made to the branch collar. Where crossing branches are encountered the weaker branch/branches should be reduced or removed to avoid contact between them. The remaining branch/branches should be shortened as appropriate to relieve 'end weight' and sudden exposure by reducing the leaf bearing branch tips by no more than 30%.

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

Comments on Consultation responses:

Comments noted.

POLICY CONTEXT

Designations Applicable to Site:-

Adopted Local Plan

Class C Road

Tree Preservation Order

No Public Sewer

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

Arun District Local Plan 2003:

PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

POLICY COMMENTARY

The above policies are general and, other than online Planning Policy Guidance under references ID 36-090-20140306 and ID 36-091-20140306, are not specific to trees.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND/OR LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states:

"If it appears to a Local Planning authority that it is expedient in the interest of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees.... they may for that purpose make an order"

The works to the trees are to be judged having regard to amenity.

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is considered that there are no other material considerations to warrant a decision otherwise than in accordance with the Development Plan and/or legislative background.

CONCLUSIONS

The tree has been inspected by the Council's Tree Officer who has identified that the proposed reduction of the lateral spread of the two largest lowest limbs (spanning to the east and west) by no more than 0.5 metres would be unlikely to have any last adverse effects or impact on the longevity of the tree. It is also identified by the Council's Tree Officer that permission is not required for the removal of the aerial deadwood.

Therefore, this application is recommended for approval subject to the following conditions.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE CONDITIONALLY

- 1 All side branches to be retained should be at least 1/3rd in diameter of the removed

branch. Pruning cuts must be flat and smooth, kept as small as possible by cutting at an optimum angle and should not exceed 100mm in diameter.

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

- 2 The Crown Clean should consist of deadwood and stub removal where all cuts should be made to the branch collar. Where crossing branches are encountered the weaker branch/branches should be reduced or removed to avoid contact between them. The remaining branch/branches should be shortened as appropriate to relieve 'end weight' and sudden exposure by reducing the leaf bearing branch tips by no more than 30%.

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

- 3 The burning of materials obtained by site clearance or from any other source shall not take place within 6 metres of the furthest extent of the canopy of any tree or group of trees to be retained on the site or on land adjoining.

Reason: To protect trees and vegetation from fire damage in the interests of the visual amenities of the locality.

- 4 The work hereby approved shall be undertaken under the supervision of the Local Planning Authority who shall be notified in writing, not less than 7 days before the work commences.

Reason: In order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery in the interests of amenity.

- 5 INFORMATIVE: The applicant should note that under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, with only a few exceptions, it is an offence for any person to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild birds while the nest is in use or being built. Birds nest between March and September and therefore removal of dense bushes, ivy or trees or parts of trees etc. during this period could lead to an offence under the act.

- 6 INFORMATIVE: This notice does not give authority to destroy or damage a bat roost or disturb a bat. Bat species are protected under Section 39 of the 1994 Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations (as amended), the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) and the 2000 Countryside and Rights of Way Act. It is illegal to damage or destroy any bat roost, whether occupied or not, or disturb or harm a bat. If you are aware that bats roost in a tree(s) for which work is planned, you should take further advice from Natural England (via the Bat Conservation Trust on 0845 1300228) or an ecological consultant before you start. If bats are discovered during the work, you must stop immediately and contact Natural England before continuing.