

Planning Officer: Andrew Wood

Planning Application Ref: FG/64/17/T

Location: 49 Langbury Lane, Ferring

Description of works: 3m canopy reduction and 5m crown lift to north side of 1 No Ash tree

Reasons Given: Cast heavy shade and overhangs gardens and a neighbours shed.

Comments:

Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* Height – 17m Spread – 7m Age – Early mature

- A sound and healthy tree of significant proportions.
- Because of the way that these properties have been laid out this tree overhangs four rear gardens.
- I sympathise with the desire to control the growth potential of this tree by way of periodic pruning operations.
- Crown lifting to 5m is a good way of achieving a better ground clearance and allowing more light to percolate under the canopy.
- However, lateral spread reduction to the north side above the new shed by 3m is excessive and unnecessary given that the crown lifting operation will already have achieved a significant clearance from the shed.

Conclusions:

- I would have no problem with seeing this tree crown lifted and to a lesser degree the canopy overhang that remains above the shed cut back by some 1m to 1.5m maximum.
- There is an issue to be resolved here in that the owner of the tree is not the one that is applying for this work it is the tree surgeon working for the owner of the shed at No 54 that has applied.
- Thus any approval is in principle only and would require the owners approval to same and permission to access the tree from his garden at No 48. If this permission is not forthcoming then the tree surgeon would have to do the work from the garden of No 54 using step ladders and extending loppers.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** of this application as it stands - as the works are excessive and do not comply with BS3998 recommendations and would result in damage to the health and vitality of this tree as well as undermining its visual amenity value in the landscape.

Advisory:

- Recommend that the applicant re-submits seeking the following works:-

Ash – Crown lift in a balanced manner all around the lower skirt of the tree to achieve a ground clearance of 5m + shorten back the lateral overhang above the shed at No 54 by a maximum of 1.5m making all final cuts adjacent to living growth points and leaving no stubs devoid of foliage.

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist