

From: Mark Warwick
Sent: 27 April 2018 12:37
To: Amber Willard
Cc: Planning.Responses
Subject: FG/6/18/T

Hi Amber

Please find attached my comments/observations for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Mark

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Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: FG/6/18/T

Location: 3a Ancren Close, Ferring

Description of works: Reduce the height of 1No. Hornbeam by 2.5m and the spread by 3m to three sides of the trees. Crown thin by 25%.

Reasons Given: To protect adjacent residential dwelling and associated built structures

Comments on Application:

Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Height: Approx. 12m	Average Spread: 6m	Age: Mature
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- This tree appears to be in a fine physiological state with an attractive crown profile, despite its recent history of regular crown reduction work. I was unable to access the garden to inspect the tree closely, but have been able to determine its general condition and contribution to public amenity from roadside West and South aspects.
- It is sadly constrained by adjacent development which has resulted in inevitable 'pressure to prune' and offers limited visibility from adjacent properties and busy public highway.
- Historic low branch removal has been significant and this combination of extensive crown reduction (particularly on lateral aspects) and crown thinning work may have a detrimental effect on the tree's long-term vitality.

Conclusions:

- This latest proposal to reduce its overall height and spread, whilst not entirely justified is in principle broadly consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- A medium-sized tree currently which makes a small but noteworthy contribution to the area by virtue of its high canopy but sadly now in the wrong location to achieve anywhere near its full potential.
- It has been established that repeat containment pruning will continue to be necessary throughout the remaining life-span of this tree, to achieve a satisfactory degree of building clearance and allow for reasonable enjoyment of adjacent dwellings.
- There are no obvious alternative pruning regimes that would allow for this tree to be reasonably 'contained' and recover a more natural form; therefore I see no reason to refuse this application despite the inherent risks to its long-term vitality from what is proposed.

Recommendations:

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

Conditions

- 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.
- 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.

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