

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

REF NO: FG/8/21/T

LOCATION: 166 Littlehampton Road
Ferring
BN12 6PH

PROPOSAL: 2 No. Hornbeam (T1 & T3) - Crown lift lower canopy to approximately 3m on 166 Littlehampton Rd boundary, not exceeding diameter of 100mm.
1 No. Ash tree (T2) - Reduce back lateral spread on 166 Littlehampton Rd boundary, not exceeding diameter of 100mm.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above.
TREES	The trees outlined in this application are located from 166 Littlehampton Road.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	Dwelling.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	Residential.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

FG/130/18/T	1 x Hornbeam tree - Crown thinning by 30% on 59 Ferring Lane side & crown lifting to 6m above ground on 59 Ferring Lane side only	Refused 09-10-18
FG/36/14/T	Various surgery to 2 No Hornbeam trees and 2 No Ash trees	Refused 19-05-14
FG/84/12/T	Crown lift to a height of 5m & reduce crown by 30% 1 no. Hornbeam tree, Reduce crown by 30% & cut back away from garage roof by 3m 1 no. Ash tree, remove large limb & re-shape by 1m 1 no. Hornbeam tree & remove large limb & reduce remaining crown by 30% to 1 no. Ash tree	Refused 03-08-12
FG/72/00/T	Reduce crown & thin 2 Hornbeam & 2 Ash trees. Lift crown on 1 Ash tree and reshape holly.	ApproveConditionally 21-08-00
FG/5/07/T	Lift Crown, thin and remove dead wood of 1 no. Ash Tree	ApproveConditionally

Relevant planning history noted.

REPRESENTATIONS

No comments from Parish Council.

No representations from nearby occupiers.

COMMENTS ON REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED:

Noted.

CONSULTATIONS

CONSULTATION RESPONSES RECEIVED:

Outwardly and from distance (roadside) these trees appear to be in a fine physiological state (and assumed to be so in the absence of any information/evidence provided to the contrary).

Although they grow at the rear of the property, they can be seen from surrounding dwellings and public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, they have high amenity value.

Conclusions:

The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds as it seeks to strike a balance between the trees influence and potential impact on surrounding residential property and the need to retain them with dignity by having respect for natural form.

If the work is undertaken to a high standard there should be no long-term harm to their health and vitality.

Recommendation:

I recommend CONSENT for this application, subject to the following condition:

Condition 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

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.

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

COMMENTS ON CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

Comments noted.

POLICY CONTEXT

Built up area boundary.

Tree preservation order.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE:

NPPG	National Planning Practice Guidance
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework

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 be weighed in the balance with the Development Plan.

CONCLUSIONS

Following the comments from the tree officer, it is recommended consent be approved (granted), subject to the following conditions and informatives.

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

The Council in making a decision should be aware of and take into account any implications that may arise from the Human Rights Act 1998. Under the Act, it is unlawful for a public authority such as Arun District Council to act in a manner, which is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

Consideration has been specifically given to Article 8 (right to respect private and family life) and Article 1 of the First Protocol (protection of property). It is not considered that the recommendation for approval of the grant of permission in this case interferes unreasonably with any local residents' right to respect for their private and family life and home, except insofar as it is necessary to protect the rights and freedoms of others (in this case, the rights of the applicant). The Council is also permitted to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest and the recommendation for approval is considered to be a proportionate response to the submitted application based on the considerations set out in this report.

DUTY UNDER THE EQUALITIES ACT 2010

Duty under the Equalities Act 2010

In assessing this proposal the following impacts have been identified upon those people with the

following protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation).

The proposal would have a neutral impact on the protected characteristics.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE CONDITIONALLY

- 1 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
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.

- 2 INFORMATIVE: See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter
- 3 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.
- 4 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 0345 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.