

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin
Planning Application Ref: FG/95/21/T
Location: 37 Ferringham Lane, Ferring, BN12 5NB
Description of works: Crown reduction of 1no. beech tree to height approx. 7m and radial spread approx. 12m
Reasons given: None provided

Comments on Application:

Beech / *Fagus sylvatica* Height: 13m, Average radial spread: 0-5m, Age class: Early mature

- This tree appears to be in a fine physiological state. It has a truncated subordinate stem and is slightly suppressed by a larger holm oak yet presents upright form and an attractive unmodified upper-crown profile from several aspects.
- It is a long-established tree (stem diameter 750mm at 0.4m height) offering visual amenity to the surrounding area.
- It grows close to driveway and boundary wall/gate with spreading crown extending over those and paved forecourt. This promotes a correspondingly high volume of deposit from roosting birds that requires regular cleaning.

Conclusions:

- The work proposal has not been fully justified on arboricultural grounds.
- The applicant proposes a 3metre reduction of top height and some lateral spread. Sympathetic pruning of the high crown on the north aspect only could provide some benefit to the applicant without incurring significant loss of visual amenity, although height reduction would irrevocably spoil the tree with no obvious benefit.

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 amenity value:
 - *Reduce crown spread on north aspect only by no more than 2.5metres. The remaining spread will be a minimum of 3.5metres when measured from the nearest side of the tree's stem base.*
 - *Remove epicormic growth from main stem and limb framework to achieve a maximum of 4metres clearance above ground level.*

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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:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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.

Reasons: In the interests of the tree'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***

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

