

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner
Planning Application Ref: FP/121/20/T
Location: 9 Rife Way, Felpham, PO22 7BN
Description of works: Fell 1No. Ash tree
Reasons given: Risk management

Comments on Application:

Ash / *Fraxinus excelsior* Approx. height: 11m Average spread: 5m Age class: Mature

- The applicant has employed Jonathan Rodwell of Beechdown Arboriculture Ltd to assess the tree and provide a report on its condition. This is comprehensive and recommends a balanced work proposal to manage the tree in an appropriate state for its location whilst respecting its age and acknowledging its ecological value and potential.
- The risk of whole and partial failure has been established, with little option other than to carry out an effective felling of the tree. There is no requirement to fell to ground level or grub out the stump.
- The condition and appearance of the tree is comprehensively described within Mr Rodwell's report and I endorse his conclusions and recommendations.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is necessary to mitigate risk of structural failure and so justified on arboricultural grounds.
- The intention (as described by Mr Rodwell) is to reduce the tree to a low limb framework and thus secure some of the ecological value which has accrued during its life so far. Any new growth from dormant buds would be a welcome response although even in a dead state the tree will be an asset. On that basis, I do not feel it is appropriate to condition a replacement tree, although if the tree is to be subsequently removed I would advise replacing with a suitable native tree type to ensure no long-term loss of biodiversity to the immediate area.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team