

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner

Planning Application Ref: FP/128/19/T

Location: To rear of 21 Hedgerow Close, Felpham, PO22 8BP

Description of works: Cut back 1 bow/branch a maximum 2.5m from north aspect & reduce height by maximum 1m to 1no. field maple tree (T1). Cut back 2 bow/branches a maximum 2m from north aspect & reduce height by maximum 1m to 1no. field maple tree (T3).

Reasons Given: Risk management

Comments on Application:

T1 & T3 Field maple / *Acer campestre* Approx. height: 12m Average spread: 3m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from a distance both trees appear generally stable, free from obvious structural defect and in fair physiological condition. Detailed and close inspection was not possible due to restricted view of stem base and root-plate.
- Both trees present leaning stems and asymmetric form, a probable legacy of early attempts to escape the shade of companion trees – from which they have emerged dominant/survived.
- They grow at the rear of adjacent properties and can be seen from neighbouring dwellings but have only limited visibility from publicly accessible land. Nonetheless, they are recognised for their collective ecological and visual amenity value and worthy of the Order (TPO) which seeks to preserve their place in the landscape.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds as it seeks to strike a balance between the tree's influence and potential impact on surrounding residential property and the need to retain trees with dignity by having respect for natural tree form.
- If the work is undertaken to a high standard and at the right time then the trees should be able to remain as long-term visually interesting features in the local landscape.

Recommendations:

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

Conditions 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.
- The long-term vitality of these trees is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during either the summer (June to August) or mid-winter (late-December to early-February) periods. The work must only be undertaken during these periods.

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

Advisory:

- It appears that these trees may be under 3rd party ownership. We are therefore obliged to advise the applicant that any consent granted by the Local Planning Authority does not by association give authority to undertake the proposed work from/or cut back material to beyond the property boundary, without first seeking permission from the tree owner.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

