Arun District Council

Date Inspected: 7th March 2018

Planning Officer: **Zac Denton**

Planning Application Ref: **FP/13/18/T**

Location: **37 Felpham Road, Bognor Regis**

Description of works: **2m Crown Reduction to 1No. Hornbeam.**

Reasons Given: **To improve light to Nos.40 and 42 Gateway Lodge**

Comments on Application:

Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* Height: Approx. 14m Average spread: 6m Age: Early-mature

- This is a fine example of its type, with excellent form arising from a lack of significant crown modification. Although not comprehensively assessed, it has apparent good health and appears stable and free of significant structural defect. It is visible from the adjacent public highway and neighbouring properties, thereby provides a notable visual amenity.
- Low branches have been removed in the past to permit access for vehicles to the commercial premises at the rear of adjacent property and achieve satisfactory overhead clearance of footpath serving residential properties – this has not had a detrimental effect on the tree's overall aesthetic value. Canopy height at present is adequate on all aspects.
- It is probably self-seeded and grows out of a short, steep bank – flanked on either side by the aforementioned access road and a low flint wall. It has an overbearing effect on the relatively recent development (Gateway Lodge).

Conclusion:

- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality, in conflict with policy GEN7 of the Arun District Local Plan.

Recommendations:

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

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team