

FROM: Ian Brewster **TO:** Janice Chapman

PLANNING APPLICATION: FP/155/13/T

ADDRESS: 15 Manor Copse Felpham PO22 7AT

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Fell two Horse chestnut trees

INSPECTION DATE: 24th October 2013 on-site

RECOMMENDATION:

Objection ☒

No Objection ☐

Suggested Conditions ☐

Comment ☒

Recommendation ☒

Abate a Nuisance ☐

Tree Replacement ☐

Dead/Dangerous ☐

CA & Amenity Value ☐

Comments:

1. I have surveyed both trees and despite a history of heavy 'cutting back' of large limbs away from 'The Stables' south of their main stems (see figure 4), they were found to be in reasonable health and condition, not in decline with sparse crowns as suggested.
2. Understandably, new growths emerging from these wounds are prone to 'burn off' caused by the drying winds, and unlikely to affect the hardier peripheral leafy spreading crown (see figure 4).



Figure 1 from Limmer Lane.

3. There appears to be no record of received applications for such harsh 'pruning' treatment on the Council's planning files and doubt that this work would have been granted consent by the Council.



Figure 2 from Hayley's Gardens

4. Fortunately the prevailing south west to north east winds should not unduly cause branch failure where the majority of large limbs overhang an area of open ground.
5. Horse Chestnut trees today in the UK generally suffer with diseases affecting their foliage and bark. Trees found to have canker, affecting the bark, do not indicate structural weakness. However a secondary pathogen entered sapwood which has been exposed by the typical longitudinal strip forming wounds could result in the potential failure of the affected stem by the degradation of those inner supportive tissues. This does not apply to the two Horse Chestnut trees.



Figure 3 from Old Rectory Gardens

6. The mature trees have reduced vigour so a physical impact by significant root growth is unlikely to affect nearby structures in the future.



Figure 4 from The Stables

7. My visit shows both trees to have a good crown of foliage and are prominent in the landscape as viewed from Old Rectory Gardens (see figure 3), Hayley's Gardens (figure 2) and Limmer Lane (figure 1) . Replacing these with an ultimately smaller sized pair at maturity would diminish the area of safe and statuesque arboreal feature.

Recommendation:

The felling of both trees is unwarranted considering the lack of supportive evidence and good Arboricultural justification. Therefore the proposal should be refused consent.

Ian Brewster
Arboriculturist