

Planning Officer: Charlotte Burrows

Planning Application Ref: FP/157/18/T

Location: 37 Felpham Road, Bognor Regis

Description of works: Crown lift of 3m to 1No. Hornbeam & shorten remaining branch length heading North East by 3m

Reasons Given: Risk of damage to building from direct contact with branches (nuisance)

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 work proposed is reasonable as it aims to address both short/mid-term building interference and respect the natural form of the tree.
- The work if undertaken to a high standard will not incur a significant loss of visual amenity.

Recommendations:

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

Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- 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 must not exceed 50mm in diameter and 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 trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team