

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley
Reference: FP/16/22/T
Location: 4 Wyke Lane North, Felpham, PO22 8LE
Proposal: 1no. ash tree (T1) - Crown reduction to 12.5m in height and 6m spread
Reasons given: None provided

Comments on Application:

Ash / *Fraxinus excelsior* Height: 12m Average radial spread: 6m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from roadside this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary.
- It is a long-lapsed pollard and has formed a balanced crown profile. It makes a valuable contribution to the street scene.
- The agent and I appear to disagree in our assessment of the tree's overall dimensions, although this does not affect my recommendation.
- The Parish Council's Tree Warden observed impact damage in the crown from high-sided vehicles. If low growth over the carriageway is a concern, the agent and their client should consider the exception for 'dangerous trees and branches' which I have referred to in advisory at the foot of this report.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its vulnerability to environmental changes and potential disease progression.
- No arboricultural justification has been provided for whole crown reduction pruning to any extent, at this time.

Recommendation:

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

Advisory:

- Regulation 14 – (1) (c) of The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 permits '*The lopping of tree branches to the extent that such works are urgently necessary to remove an immediate risk of serious harm*' as an exception from the normal application process. In practice here, that permits the applicant to prune those branches which overhang the public highway, achieving maximum overhead clearance of 5metres directly above the carriageway, without recourse to this authority.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace