

Recommendation Report for Works to Tree(s) on trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (

REF NO: FP/173/14/T

LOCATION: 10 Wick Lane
Felpham

PROPOSAL: Reduce branches to growth points by no more than 2m, raise canopy to 2m above ground level & deadwood 1 No Box Elder tree

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above
SITE AREA	N/A
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT DENSITY (NET)	N/A
TOPOGRAPHY	Predominantly flat
TREES	The Box Elder tree the subject of this application.
BOUNDARY TREATMENT	Front has wall approximately 1m in height, rear has close boarded fencing approximately 1.8m in height, north side boundary has close boarded fencing approximately 1.8m in height, south side boundary has flank wall of neighbouring garage/workshop of No 8 with close boarded fencing approximately 1.8m in height.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	Semi-detached two storey property with flat roof single storey extension on rear. Detached flat roof garage on south side with side dormer. The property has brickwork on lower level with render above, tiled roof and white window frames.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	Residential comprising semi-detached, detached two storey of various styles and designs, flats to the rear.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

None

REPRESENTATIONS

Representations received:

Felpham Parish Council

No objection

Felpham Parish Council has no objection to this application. Felpham Parish Council's Tree

report

Warden provides the following statement: I have looked at the tree and agree that it does need this amount of attention. In view of this unusual species, it is important to carry out the above work with care. I recommend that the work must be carried out by a experienced Tree Surgeon.

Comments on Representations received:

Parish Council comments noted
See Tree Officer's recommendation.

CONSULTATIONS

Arboriculturist

Consultations responses received:

Tree Officer

Species: Box Elder *Acer negundo* Average crown spread (Est): 7 meters Form: good Crown Condition: good Age Class: mature.

This tree is situated in the area Felpham which has a reasonable stocking density of varying species and varying age classes, mostly medium broadleaf standards. Unfortunately I have visited this site on 3 separate occasions, and each time I was unable to access the property. I could only just see the outlined tree over a boundary fence. I have therefore been forced to complete this application by photograph. It is clear for the photographic evidence provided that this a maturing specimen, with a good form and crown condition. There is evidence that this individual has had a remedial pruning operation at some point. This is reflected in the stature of said tree. A mature tree of this species would be quite happy with the outlined pruning activity (due to its growth habit being favourable to pruning operations), as the combine lateral reduction and crown reduction would see less than 30% of the healthy crown mass removed (as stipulated to the BS 3998:2010 section 7.6).

I would therefore have no objection to the desired pruning works (both crown raise and crown reduction), as they do not contravene the BS 3998 and would be a technique of potentially extending the retention span of the outlined tree.

Also the applicant has applied to prune deadwood - no application needs to be made for this activity.

Crown Reduction

All side branches to be retained should be at least 1/3rd in diameter of the removed branch. Pruning cuts must be flat and smooth, kept as small as possible by cutting at an optimum angle and should not exceed 100mm in diameter.

Crown Clean

The Crown Clean should consist of deadwood and stub removal where all cuts should be made to the branch collar. Where crossing branches are encountered the weaker branch/branches should be reduced or removed to avoid contact between them. The remaining branch/branches should be shortened as appropriate to relieve 'end weight' and sudden exposure by reducing the leaf bearing branch tips by no more than 30%.

Crown Lift

Branches found within the clearance height having diameters greater than 100mm should be shortened and no more than 15% of the leaf bearing growth of that branch should be removed to facilitate the unobstructed free passage of vehicles and pedestrians.

Comments on Consultation responses:

Comments noted

POLICY CONTEXT

Designation applicable to site:

Built Up Area Boundary
Tree Preservation Order

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

Arun District Local Plan 2003:

PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

POLICY COMMENTARY

The above policies are general and, other than online Planning Policy Guidance under references ID 36-090-20140306 and ID 36-091-20140306, are not specific to trees.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND/OR LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states:

"If it appears to a Local Planning authority that it is expedient in the interest of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees.... they may for that purpose make an order"

The works to the trees are to be judged having regard to amenity.

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is considered that there are no other material considerations to warrant a decision otherwise than in accordance with the Development Plan and/or legislative background.

CONCLUSIONS

The Box Elder tree is sited in the rear garden and is not readily visible to the front of the site being of no significant public visual amenity value.

The application seeks to reduce the tree to a more manageable size and rebalance the shape. This procedure will involve reducing branches all over the crown back to growth points by no more than 2 metres and raising the canopy to 2 metres above ground level.

The Tree Officer has raised no objection to the proposed pruning works for the continued health and vitality of the tree. It is therefore recommended that the application be approved, subject to conditions.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE CONDITIONALLY

1 The works hereby approved to the Box Elder tree shall involve:

Reduce branches to growth points by no more than 2m.
Raise canopy to 2m above ground level and deadwood.

All works to be carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010 Recommendation for Tree Work.

Crown Reduction

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Crown Clean

The Crown Clean should consist of deadwood and stub removal where all cuts should be made to the branch collar. Where crossing branches are encountered the weaker branch/branches should be reduced or removed to avoid contact between them. The remaining branch/branches should be shortened as appropriate to relieve 'end weight' and sudden exposure by reducing the leaf bearing branch tips by no more than 30%.

Crown Lift

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Reason: In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and in the interests of amenity.

- 2 The work hereby approved shall be undertaken under the supervision of the Local Planning Authority who shall be notified in writing, not less than 7 days before the work commences.

Reason: In order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery in the interests of amenity.

- 3 The burning of materials obtained by site clearance or from any other source shall not take place within 6 metres of the furthest extent of the canopy of any tree or group of trees to be retained on the site or on land adjoining.

Reason: To protect trees and vegetation from fire damage in the interests of the visual amenities of the locality.

- 4 INFORMATIVE: The applicant should note that under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, with only a few exceptions, it is an offence for any person to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild birds while the nest is in use or being built. Birds nest between March and September and therefore removal of dense bushes, ivy or trees or parts of trees etc. during this period could lead to an offence under the act.

- 5 INFORMATIVE: This notice does not give authority to destroy or damage a bat roost or disturb a bat. Bat species are protected under Section 39 of the 1994 Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations (as amended), the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) and the 2000 Countryside and Rights of Way Act. It is illegal to damage or

destroy any bat roost, whether occupied or not, or disturb or harm a bat. If you are aware that bats roost in a tree(s) for which work is planned, you should take further advice from Natural England (via the Bat Conservation Trust on 0845 1300228) or an ecological consultant before you start. If bats are discovered during the work, you must stop immediately and contact Natural England before continuing.