

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 5th January 2026

Case Officer: Jonny Cooper
Reference: FP/183/25/T
Location: 12 Grafton Avenue, Felpham, Bognor Regis, PO22 6AR
Proposal: Fell 1no. yew tree (T1).
Reason: To remove risk of harm from toxic plant material

Comments on Application:

Yew / <i>Taxus baccata</i>	Height: 5-10m	Radial spread: 0-5m	Age class: Early mature
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T1 appears to be in a fine physiological state, albeit with a heavily modified crown – the upper part visible from the road and displaying a balanced, compact profile. Historic reduction pruning has diminished its landscape value, but it remains visible from surrounding properties and in part to traffic accessing/exiting this part of the estate. As such it provides some amenity value.

Whilst it is hard not to have some sympathy for those wishing to utilise all parts of their garden for horticultural purposes, the tree is a long-established feature in the local landscape and it is entirely foreseeable for any nearby resident that it would have influence over its immediate surroundings.

Conclusions:

If we were to give consent for this application, it might set an unfortunate precedent, resulting in other applications coming forward in the district, to fell any yew tree (particularly female plants) for this reason alone, regardless of their great age/heritage and amenity value. I believe such an outcome would not be a proportionate response to the risk, which could perhaps be better managed with reasonable adjustments to use of garden space.

The tree is a notable feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The proposed work would result in undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendation:

We refuse consent for this application.

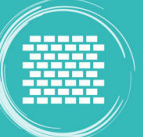
Mark Warwick
Tree Officer
Environment and Climate Change

PL-Consultation- Tree Officer response

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
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From: Mark Warwick <Mark.Warwick@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 January 2026 13:04
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Jonny Cooper <Jonny.Cooper@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: FP/183/25/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Regards,

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer, Environment and Climate Change

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd
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