

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: FP/198/19/T

Location: 4 New Barn Lane, Felpham, PO22 8LP

Description of works: Reduce crown of 1no. ash tree by 3-4m, reduce crown of 1no. oak tree by 2-3m & reduce crown of 1no. ash tree by 2-3m

Reasons Given: None provided

Comments on Application:

T1 Ash / <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Approx. height: 11m	Average spread: 4m	Age class: Late-mature
T2 Pedunculate oak / <i>Quercus robur</i>	Approx. height: 11m	Average spread: 5m	Age class: Early mature
T3 Ash / <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Approx. height: 10m	Average spread: 3m	Age class: Mature

- **T1** appears to be outwardly healthy and stable but with a heavily modified crown. It has in the distant past been subject to severe topping (a crude form of pollarding) for reasons unknown but has grown on well. It presents a balanced crown in response to the last operation c2014. This appears to be an aged specimen of its type and may assume veteran status. It grows from a far corner of the plot and at the confluence of several private gardens. It is visible from surrounding properties but only with difficulty from publicly-accessible land.
- **T2** appears to be outwardly healthy and stable but with a modified crown. It has in the past been subject to large limb and branch removals, evidenced by poorly-targeted wounds and irregular crown profile. It grows from a far corner of the plot and at the confluence of several private gardens. It is visible from surrounding properties but only with difficulty from publicly-accessible land.
- **T3** appears to be outwardly in a fair physiological state but of such poor form that it offers little visual amenity value. This is unfortunate as it is prominent at the front of the property to public highway users (footway and carriageway) and from adjacent properties. It has in the distant past been subject to severe topping (a crude form of pollarding) for reasons unknown but has grown on well. It presents an erratic crown profile having recently shed several branches from the main stem. The majority of branches are established epicormic shoots that are inherently of weak attachment. Although of poor form and long-term prospects for visual amenity, it retains high growth potential and further stem expansion is anticipated, with correspondingly high risk of further damage and disruption to adjacent built structures and footway.

Note: Having checked the TPO records available to me, I do not believe this tree is the subject of an Order therefore our consent is not required and the applicant is free to manage the tree without further recourse to this authority. I am aware of a recent proposal to remove this tree, to which I have no objection and would not recommend the making of an Order to preserve its place in the landscape.

Conclusions:

- **T1** - This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression. That said, the work proposed is necessary to mitigate risk of structural failure and so justified on arboricultural grounds. While a temporary loss of aesthetic value is inevitable, satisfactory canopy renewal and recovery should occur if the work is undertaken to a high standard and at an appropriate time of year.
- **T2** - The applicant proposes a potential 3metre reduction of top height and lateral spread. If the full extent of meterage is applied on all aspects this would exceed the recommendations in British Standard 3998:2010 – Tree Work and would be likely to result in harm to the health and vitality of the tree with large pruning wounds being formed as well as undermining its visual amenity value and impact in the landscape. There is no obvious arboricultural justification for the work proposed.

- **T3** - I do not believe this tree is the subject of an Order therefore our consent is not required. It is of low amenity value and unviable for long-term retention so I would not recommend the making of an Order to preserve its place in the landscape.

Recommendations:

- The applicant be advised that consent from the local planning authority for any work to T3 is not required, as it is not the subject of any statutory protection.
- As it stands, I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application as I find the work proposed for T2 unacceptable. The work proposed for T1 is acceptable.
- I would like to see the applicant agree to a revised work specification in respect of T2 such as detailed below, which would seem to address their concerns in part whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:
 - T2 Reduce radial spread on southern aspects only by no more than 2m from fullest extent, to achieve a more symmetrical crown profile. Branch reduction should be tapered across the crown profile so that it blends in with unpruned parts and so respects natural form. There is to be no top-height reduction.

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- If the applicant is prepared to re-submit in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following conditions:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Works: -

- Part a) 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
- Part b) Where branches are to be shortened back the final cuts are to be made at the correct angle shown in BS3998:2010 and adjacent to a live bud or lateral.
- Part c) In respect of T1 - the removal of crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.
- Part d) The long-term vitality of trees **T1** and **T2** is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late-spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed must only be undertaken during this period.

Reasons: In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

- See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

