

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: FP/216/18/T

Location: 14 Bridger Close, Felpham, PO22 8FT

Description of works: Reduce canopy by 1m, reduce all south facing branches by 2m, target prune all damaged stubs to 1 No. Ash tree

Reasons Given: 1. Health and safety (historic limb failures) 2. Excessive shading of landscaped garden

Comments on Application:

Ash / *Fraxinus excelsior* Height: Approx.12m Average spread: 5m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from a distance it appears to be in a fine physiological state. It grows on the edge of an established tree group at the rear of the property and can be seen from neighbouring dwellings but has only limited visibility from publicly accessible land.
- There is evidence of past and recent limb failure, which seems attributable more to its position and unique exposure to localised concentration of prevailing winds than any underlying inherent weakness.

Conclusions:

- If the work is undertaken to a good standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the tree's long-term vitality and visual amenity.
- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds as it seeks to maintain reasonable enjoyment of the garden with respect to natural tree form.

Recommendations:

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

Conditions To Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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 are to be made at the correct angle shown in BS3998:2010 and adjacent to a live bud or lateral.
- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late-spring to summer (May to August) or mid-winter (mid-December to mid-February) periods. The work proposed must only be undertaken during these periods.

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