

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: FP/223/20/T

Location: 12 Grafton Avenue, Felpham, PO22 6AR

Description of works: Reduce 1no. yew tree (T1) to height 8m and spread 6m. Fell 1no. yew tree (T2)

Reason given: Structural damage (garden boundary wall)

Comments on application:

T1 & T2 Yew / *Taxus baccata*

Height: 5-10m

Spread: 0-5m

Age class: Early mature

- I have considered this application by means of a desktop review, using the plan and photos submitted as well as online resources.
- The applicant currently has a valid Approval (subject to conditions) for specified reduction in height and crown spread of both trees, under planning reference FP/49/20/T. This application replicates the approved work proposal for T1. T2, the southern specimen, is proposed for removal. It is implicated in an ongoing damage event to a garden boundary wall.
- Outwardly and from a distance both trees appeared to be in a fine physiological state (insp. May 2020), albeit with a heavily modified crown – the upper part visible from the road and displaying a balanced, compact profile.
- Historic reduction pruning has diminished their landscape value, but they are long-established and remain visible from surrounding properties and in part to traffic accessing/exiting this part of the estate. As such, they have public amenity value.
- The applicant has employed an Arboricultural Consultant to provide a technical report. This is comprehensive and satisfies the evidential test required to be met in support of such a proposal for the reasons given.

Conclusions:

- T1 - The proposal to reduce its overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- 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 removal of this tree has been justified as necessary to achieve long-term structural integrity of 3rd party boundary wall. A replacement tree of a more suitable type and planted at an appropriate distance from boundary structures is achievable and can form part of the decision notice.

Recommendation:

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

Conditions to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

CONDITION 1

- 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) 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.

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*

CONDITION 2

Once the tree (T2 Yew) has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 3metres.

This is to be of Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the yew tree.

The species shall be selected from the following: -

Field maple *Acer campestre*

Yew *Taxus baccata*

- **Reasons:** To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Advisory:

- The long-term vitality of T1 Yew is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during either the late summer (mid-July to August) or late winter (mid-January to February) periods. The work should only be undertaken during these periods.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

