

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

REF NO: FP/227/14/T

LOCATION: The Green
The Ridgeway
Felpham Beach Estate Felpham

PROPOSAL: Surgery to various trees

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above.
SITE AREA	N/A
TOPOGRAPHY	Predominantly flat.
TREES	The trees the subject of this application.
BOUNDARY TREATMENT	Open boundaries.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	Green comprising a rectangular open space laid to grass.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	Predominantly residential comprising detached two storey dwellings surrounding a green.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

None.

REPRESENTATIONS

Representations received:

Felpham Parish Council

No objection - does not conflict with the Neighbourhood Plan policies. The trees on the Green have been well managed in the past and needs this maintenance to carry on as before sticking to its management plan. Work should be carried out by a qualified tree surgeon.

Comments on Representations received:

None.

CONSULTATIONS

Arboriculturist

Consultations responses received:

Council's Tree Officer:-

Comments:

The given trees are situated on an open 'green' space abutting 'the Ridgeway', in Felpham. The trees are therefore highly visible to the public and an important feature in the immediate landscape and wider landscape. There is a reasonable stocking density in the surrounding area.

·The applicant has requested the removal of the lowest east facing branch at 1.5 meters height form T1. Competition of this pruning operation is unlikely to have any overall effect on T1's longevity and/or form, as removal this lowest branch is likely to rebalance this individual. Also noted on the site inspection was the extensive abiotic damage that has been sustained to the Basal area (most likely causes of this abiotic damage is conflict with mowers/trimmer's). This tree is not covered by an active TPO order.

·For T2, the applicant has requested to reduce the tree by 1.2 meters and remove a branch overhanging the road. From the site inspection it is clear that this tree has particular poor form, as it the main stem has lent over in an eastern direction. As for the 'branch to be removed over the road', the site inspection did not reveal a specific branch that spanned over the road. Moreover, the requested reduction of 1.2 meters will alleviate any potential conflict with highway users. This tree does have evidence of previous pruning (possibly a reduction). Also T2 is subject to TPO order.

·For T3, the applicant has requested to reduce the tree by 1.2 meters and remove a branch overhanging the road. From the site inspection, it is apparent that T3 is in a much better form than T2, but does have less presence in the wider landscape. Again for the 'branch to be removed over the road', the site inspection identified a number of individual limbs that would meet that profile. It is also clear the requested reduction of 1.2 meters will alleviate any potential conflict with highway users. This tree does have evidence of previous pruning (possibly a reduction). Also T3 is subject to TPO order.

·For T4, the applicant has requested to fell this individual. It is clear from the site inspection that this tree has poor form, as the main stem has a heavy lean to the north east at about 2 meters height. It was also apparent that a large amount of the crown mass appears to be dead (over 70%). It is also apparent that there is interference between T4 and T5, which is causing suppression (especially T4). T4 is currently not covered by a TPO order.

·For T5, the applicant has requested to reduce the tree by 1.2 meters. This tree does have a lean to the north (due to the prevailing wind). The proposed reduction of 1.2 meters will remove the end weight from the canopy, which considering T5's lean is likely to increase the retention span of T5. Also T5 is subject to TPO order.

·For T6, the applicant has requested to crown lift the tree by 2 meters. This action is unlikely to be a detriment to the aesthetic value and/or longevity of T6. This tree is not covered by an active TPO order.

·For T7, the applicant has requested to crown lift the tree by 2 meters and reduce the lateral spread by 2 meters. The lateral spread is beginning to encroach the main highway, the desired reduction will alleviate this interference. Also T7 is subject to TPO order.

·For T8, the applicant has requested reduce the lateral spread by 2 meters of the roadside only. The lateral spread of T8 is beginning to encroach the main highway; the desired reduction will alleviate this interference. Also T8 is subject to TPO order.

·For T9, the applicant has requested to remove a branch spanning of the roadside. This branch is beginning to encroach the main highway; the desired reduction will alleviate this interference. Also T9 is subject to TPO order.

Recommendation:

·For T1, I would have no objection to the proposed operation. No conditions to be set, as this tree has not got an active TPO.

·For T2, I would have no objection to the proposed operation of reduce the tree by 1.2 meters and remove a branch overhanging the road only. The following conditions are to be adhered to;

·For T3, I would have no objection to the proposed operation of reduce the tree by 1.2 meters and remove a branch overhanging the road only. The following conditions are to be adhered to;

·For T4, I would have no objection to the applicants request to fell T4. No conditions to be set, as this tree has not got an active TPO.

·For T5 I would have no objection to the proposed operation of reduce the tree by 1.2 meters only. The following conditions are to be adhered to;

·For T6 I would have no objection to the proposed operation of a crown lift of 2 meters. No conditions to be set, as this tree has not got an active TPO.

·For T6 I would have no objection to the proposed operation of reduce the tree by 2 meters only. The following conditions are to be adhered to;

·For T7 I would have no objection to the proposed operation of crown raising T7 by 2 meters, and to reduce the tree by 2 meters only. The following conditions are to be adhered to;

·For T8 I would have no objection to the proposed operation of reduce the lateral spread spanning towards the highway, by 2 meters only. The following conditions are to be adhered to;

·For T8 I would have no objection to the proposed operation of reduce the lateral spread spanning towards the highway, by 2 meters only. The following conditions are to be adhered to;

·For T8 I would have no objection to the proposed operation of reduce the lateral spread spanning towards the highway, by 2 meters only. The following conditions are to be adhered to;

·For T9 I would have no objection to the proposed operation of reduce the lateral branch spread spanning towards the highway only. The following conditions are to be adhered to;

Conditions:

Condition 1: 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.

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

Condition 2: 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%.

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

Conditions 3: 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.

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

Comments on Consultation responses:

Comments noted

POLICY CONTEXT

Designations Applicable to Site:-

Adopted Local Plan

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 trees the subject of this application are all located upon the open green space and as such are all prominent features within the street scene.

An inspection of the trees was carried out by the Council's Tree Officer who raised no objection to the proposed works subject to the inclusion of conditions to control the extent of the works.

Therefore, in accordance with the recommendation of the Council's Tree Officer it is recommended that this application is approved subject to the following conditions.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE CONDITIONALLY

- 1 The works hereby approved shall involve the removal of 1.2m and branch overhanging the road of 1 No. Corsican Pine; removal of 1.2m and branch over hanging the road of 1 No. Corsican Pine; reduction in height by 1.5m of 1 No. Willow; crown lift by 2 metres and reduction by 25% of 1 No. Holm Oak; reduction by 2 metres on road side of 1 No. Corsican Pine; and removal of 1 branch overhanging road by 5 metres of 1 No. White Poplar. Where whole branches are to be removed final cuts close to the trunk or branch union are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010 and all branches which need to be shortened are to be cut at the correct angle and adjacent to a live bud or lateral as defined and illustrated in BS3998:2010.

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

- 2 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.

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

- 3 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%.

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

- 4 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.

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

- 5 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.

- 6 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.

- 7 **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.

- 8 **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.