

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: FP/227/20/T

Location: 49 Roundle Avenue, Felpham, PO22 8LJ

Description of works: Reduce crown of 1no. ash tree to height 9m and spread 6.5m

Reasons given: Lack of recent maintenance (post 2015), Excessive shading to surrounding area, Interference with telegraph pole

Comments on Application:

Ash / *Fraxinus excelsior* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly this tree appears to be in fair physiological condition. It presents an asymmetric crown profile and a wayward limb on the northeast aspect. There are several old wounds about the main stem and low on scaffold limbs, associated with large limb failure and successive high-sided vehicle impacts.
- It grows at the front of the property and is highly visible to traffic accessing/exiting this part of the estate. As such, it has public amenity value.
- The principle of whole crown-reduction pruning being sought here is acceptable given the history of management and past approval from the local planning authority. That said, the illustrated photograph showing 'suggested cutting position' of the scaffold limb tending towards the telegraph pole; exceeds the requirements of British Standard (BS3998:2010) Tree work – Recommendations and has not been justified.
- The telegraph pole is sited approximately 4metres from the stem base so leaving a radial crown spread of minimum 6.5m (is incompatible with the above proposed cutting position) rightly ensures enough small foliage-bearing branches can be retained to sustain the parent limb. The minimum 6.5m radial spread proposal takes precedence here.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression. 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 (see Informative).
- The proposal to reduce its overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Recommendation:

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

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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 tree's 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

Informative:

- The long-term vitality of the ash tree 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 should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

