

**Planning Officer:** Hannah Kersley

**Planning Application Ref:** FP/231/21/T

**Location:** Various locations, Gateway Lodge, Felpham Road, Felpham, PO22 7NS

**Description of works:** Fell 1 No. Ornamental Cherry tree (T1); **Fell 1 No. Horse Chestnut tree (T2)**; Crown reduction of 1 No. Olive tree by maximum 2m to leave height 4m and spread 2m (T3)

**Reasons given:** Disruption of footway

**Comments on Application:**

- I have undertaken a desktop review of Tree Preservation Orders which may affect these proposals. My understanding is that only Bognor No5 (Area Order) could apply. I am confident that T1 cherry and T3 olive would not have been established at the time that Order was made (1962). I believe consent is not required from the local planning authority before undertaking any work to those two trees.
- It is conceivable that T2 horse chestnut was established at that time, and so we should proceed on the basis that it is protected by the Order.

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**T2 Horse chestnut / *Aesculus hippocastanum***      Height: 10-15m      Radial spread: 5-10m      Age class: Mature

- The applicant has employed Andrew Gale Tree Surgery Ltd. as agent and to provide a report which describes the tree's condition.
- Outwardly T2 appears to be in a fair physiological state (moderate shoot extension). In the upper crown there is an obvious tear-out wound from historic loss of central leader with associated cavity formation (deadwood exploited by woodpecker). Potential exists for decay to extend down through main stem. Horse chestnut are noted for their poor resistance to fungal invasion.
- This is a large tree for its setting and retains significant growth potential. It presents an attractive crown profile and is visible from numerous dwellings.
- Buttress root and stem expansion have inevitably led to a progressive heave of the tarmac footway. Unfortunately, no engineering or other practical solution (incl. root pruning) exists that would permit effective repair and safe retention of the tree.

**Conclusions:**

- Footway disruption cannot be satisfactorily resolved with ongoing presence of this tree. While footway condition may be tolerable for many, site owners with responsibility/liability for safety of residents may need to execute effective repair to discharge a duty of care.
- This tree could remain safe and of visual interest for many years but the evidence before us suggests it is more likely to become hazardous and/or much diminished in the landscape. There is ample space on the adjacent lawn for an ornamental tree to occupy as a suitable replacement.

**Recommendation:**

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

**Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -**

- Once the tree 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 5metres.

This is to be of Selected 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 horse chestnut tree.

The species shall be selected from the following: -

**Field maple** *Acer campestre*

**Hornbeam** *Carpinus betulus*

**Sweet Gum** *Liquidambar styraciflua*

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

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team