

Planning Officer: Hannah Kersley

Planning Application Ref: FP/240/21/T

Location: 48 Roundle Avenue, Felpham, PO22 8LJ

Description of works: Reduce 2no. ash trees (T1 and T2) by 2m to leave height 10m and spread 10m

Reasons given: To remove branches from close vicinity of road and property

Comments on Application:

T1 Ash / *Fraxinus excelsior* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Early mature

T2 Ash / *Fraxinus excelsior* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from a distance (roadside) these trees appear to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary. Both have complex crown form, with several minor defects notable and evidence of historic reduction pruning. T1 is clearly a lapsed pollard with subsequent crown reduction having taken place.
- Both trees grow roadside at the front of the property and are highly visible from numerous properties and to traffic accessing/exiting this part of the estate. As such, they have public amenity value.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of these trees, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce overall height and spread with a view to restricting their 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.

Recommendation:

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

Condition 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) Where pollarding or crown reduction pruning has occurred previously, then 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

Advisory:

- The long-term vitality of these trees is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late spring to summer period (May to August).

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

