

**Planning Officer:** Charlotte Easton

**Planning Application Ref:** LU/216/18/T

**Location:** 22 Dorset Close, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 6ED

**Description of works:** Crown Reduction to previous pruning points to 2No. Ash trees

**Reasons Given:** Health and safety (structural)

**Comments on Application:**

**2x Ash** *Fraxinus excelsior* Height: 15-20m Spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- I have undertaken a desktop review of this application.
- The applicant has submitted a tree report prepared by County Tree Surgeons Ltd, dated 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017, which appears to be comprehensive and provides justification for the work now proposed. The recommendations therein are likely to remain valid.
- Both trees have previously been the subject of severe crown reduction (pollarding) work (c2005) for which this authority granted consent. They have responded with vigour.
- These trees have previously undergone such intense 'containment pruning' that repeat work will be necessary throughout their lifespan to ensure they remain in a structural condition appropriate for their location.
- They grow to the rear of the property and are highly visible from adjacent properties, although only with difficulty from publicly accessible land.

**Conclusions:**

- The work proposed is necessary to mitigate risk of structural failure and so justified on arboricultural grounds.
- 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.
- 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.

**Recommendations:**

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

**Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -**

- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during either the mid-summer (mid-June to mid-September) or mid-winter (mid-December to mid-February) periods.

**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.**

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team