

Planning Officer: Harry Chalk

Planning Application Ref: LU/313/21/T

Location: Public Open Space, North of 70 Bluebell Drive, Littlehampton

Description of works: 1no. *Eucalyptus* tree (T1) reduce top height by 2-3m to leave a minimum of 14m, reduce lateral spread on east aspect by 3-4m, to leave a minimum of 8m & reduce lateral spread on west aspect by 2-3m to leave a minimum of 4m. 1no. *Eucalyptus* tree (T2) - remove/reduce branches as necessary to achieve maximum 3m overhead clearance above footway & maximum 6m overhead clearance above carriageway

Reasons given: To mitigate risk of stem failure (T1) and ensure adequate clearance over footway & carriageway (T2)

Comments on Application:

T1 Gum tree / *Eucalyptus* sp. Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

T2 Gum tree / *Eucalyptus* sp. Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from distance both trees appear to be in a fine physiological state. They present a visually impressive, shared crown profile although T2 is suppressed by its companion.
- Close inspection reveals a substantial cavity at the base of T1 and low growth encroaching into the public highway from T2.
- The applicant is requesting work to discharge a Duty of Care to members of the public and adjacent residents.

Conclusions:

- These are specimen trees of high public amenity value that are to be carefully pruned to meet justified objectives and with respect for natural tree form.
- If the work is undertaken to a high standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the trees' long-term vitality and visual amenity.

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.

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***

Richard Martin
Tree and Landscape Officer / Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

