

Planning Officer: Harry Chalk

Planning Application Ref: LU/317/21/T

Location: Glenmore Court, Flat 3 St Winefrides Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5LY

Description of works: 3no. chestnut trees - re-pollard to previous points and remove deadwood

Reasons given: None provided

Comments on Application:

3x horse chestnut / *Aesculus hippocastanum* Height: 5-10m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance these trees appear to be in a fine physiological state, although a close inspection reveals numerous small cavities having formed at old pruning wounds and established knuckles (pollard points).
- When in leaf, these trees could provide some verdant appeal to an otherwise intensely developed area.
- At least two varieties of mushroom (unidentified) were observed growing in close association with the northernmost tree's roots. Whilst that fungi may be beneficial to tree growth; the likelihood is they are either consuming dead tissue or pathogenic.
- The removal of dead branches is an exception from the normal application process and does not require prior approval from the local planning authority.
- Whilst not explicitly stated in the application, it is assumed all low-level epicormic growth (small diameter shoots from dormant buds) will be removed at the same time.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds. Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of these trees, to achieve a degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.
- The proposal to reduce their overall height and spread with a view to restricting 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: -

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 pollarding 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 / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

