

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: LU/32/19/T

Location: 27 Dorset Close, Littlehampton, BN17 6ED

Description of works: Fell 1 No. eucalyptus tree

Reasons given: 1. Tree has previously been the subject of hard pruning. 2. Engulfs the garden

Comments on Application:

Gum / <i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.	Approx. height: 11m	Average spread: 3m	Age class: Mature
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- The applicant has employed The Tree Management Company to assess the tree and provide a report on its condition. The tree has been given a condition rating of poor but without any specific details to support that judgement.
- Restricted view of tree, but condition of upper crown suggests it is in good physiological condition. It has previously been subject to heavy crown reduction work (c2015/6) and has responded with vigour, typical for a healthy example of its type.
- It grows at the rear of the property and can be seen from neighbouring dwellings but has only limited visibility from publicly accessible land.
- A repeat of past 'containment pruning' will be necessary throughout the remaining life-span of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.

Conclusions:

- Outwardly and from a distance the tree appears to be sound and importantly no evidence of root/stem defect or significant disease has been provided in support of the application to justify the poor condition rating. As such, this tree continues to provide visual amenity and its continued presence has not been determined to present an unacceptable level of risk for its location, so should be retained.
- This tree has high growth potential but is reasonably located - occupying a near central position within the garden and at a distance from the residential dwelling that combined with a programme of regular crown reduction pruning - allows it to remain in harmony with surroundings and throughout its anticipated lifespan.
- The tree work proposed in the application has not been justified on arboricultural grounds.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Advisory:

- I would like to see the applicant submit a revised work specification such as detailed below, which would seem to address their concerns whilst preventing the loss of an established tree the subject of an Order.
 - Undertake repeat crown reduction work, such that only material grown since the last operation is to be removed.
- Reason: To maintain tree at reduced dimensions such that it does not present an unacceptable risk of falling branches and to prevent dominance over residential gardens.

- If the applicant is prepared to re-submit in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL 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 the late-spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed must only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

