

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: LU/338/20/T

Location: 3 Butts Mead, Wick, Littlehampton, BN17 6GP

Description of works: Reduction of 1no. beech (T1) to 10m high and radial spread on southern canopy to 3m reduction of 1no. beech (T2) to 10m high and radial spread on southern canopy to 3m

Reasons given: To maintain at a reasonable size, relative to dwelling

Comments on Application:

T1 & T2 Beech / *Fagus sylvatica* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from distance these trees appear to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any information/evidence provided to the contrary. T2 is of similar dimensions and stature to that which grows in the neighbouring rear garden (3a); T1 has more slender, drawn-up form. Together they provide mutual support and are a cohesive group.
- Although visible in part from surrounding properties and public highway (footway and carriageway) they have come to dominate the applicant's rear garden and retain high growth potential. As such, it is entirely reasonable that some containment pruning be applied to limit their influence.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds. These are established trees providing some visual amenity and should be carefully pruned to maintain reasonable enjoyment of residential property and with respect for natural tree form.
- Beech trees have a poor tolerance to hard pruning. If the work is undertaken to a high standard and at the right time, then there should be no significant harm to their ongoing health and vitality and thereby remain a visually interesting feature in the local landscape.

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) Where branch 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

Informative:

- The optimum time for significant pruning of these trees is during the late spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team