

Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: LU/384/17/T

Location : 3a Butts Mead, Wick, Littlehampton

Description of works: Reduce 1 No Beech by 2m overall.

Applicants Reasons: Low branching overhang and shading of property.

Comments On Application:

Common Beech *Fagus sylvatica* Height = 14m Avge spread = 2m but 6m to south Age = Early-Mature

- A tree that is sound and healthy and makes an impact in the landscape although it is somewhat hidden behind the buildings now.
- The low branching habit is causing problems and needs to be addressed as the tree dominates the rear garden even though it is positioned to the north side of same.
- The height is currently not so much of an issue but the spread is.

Conclusions:

- The height is currently not so much of an issue but the spread is.
- The request to reduce the lateral spread by 2m overall is excessive and could be harmful not only to the visual appearance of this tree in the landscape but will also be contrary to BS3998:2010 recommendations.
- It is not necessary to prune this tree in the manner applied for to resolve the issues whilst leaving a tree of good shape and form.

Recommendations:

- As it stands I would have to register a **REFUSAL** for this application.
- However, I do recommend that the applicant re-applies for the following works:-
 1. Reduce the height of the tree by a maximum of 1m.
 2. Reduce the lateral spread of this tree to the north; east and west sides by a maximum of 1.5m.
 3. Reduce the lateral spread of this tree to the south side by a maximum of 3m.

IF the applicant re-submits as recommended above then the following condition should be applied:-

- *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.***

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist