

Case Officer: Harry Chalk
Reference: LU/419/21/T
Location: 17 Harebell Close, Littlehampton, BN17 6WE
Proposal: Fell 1no. silver birch tree (T1)
Reasons given: Touching house and excessive shade

Comments on Application:

T1 Downy birch / *Betula pubescens* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

- For clarity it is important to note there are two birches on the front lawn of this property. To the east of T1 is a larger, mature silver birch with a stem diameter at 1metre height more than 500mm and growing >10metres distance from the house. Our subject tree is a smaller downy birch with a stem diameter at 1metre height of approximately 300mm and growing much nearer and to within a few metres of the house.
- Outwardly it appears to be in a fine physiological state although is poorly sited and of low public amenity value. Neighbouring and background trees dominate and provide a mature outlook for this relatively recent development. The property is to some degree blighted by the presence of T1 which if healthy would possess high growth potential if not longevity.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds and will incur minimal loss of public amenity.
- Remaining local tree density and canopy cover is of an extent that does not require a replacement tree to be planted on this occasion.
- As and when the large silver birch expires, a suitable replacement can be planted more centrally in the front lawn and at a distance more harmonious with surroundings.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** is granted for this application.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace