

**Planning Officer:** Zac Denton

**Planning Application Ref:** R/120/18/T

**Location:** 8 Elm Farm Cottages, Old Manor Road, Rustington

**Description of works:** Crown reduce 1No. Horse Chestnut tree by 1.5m to all sides and crown lift by 5m to the east side and 4m to the west

**Reasons Given:** Encroachment into public highway and to promote health and aesthetic value

**Comments on Application:**

|                       |                               |                     |                    |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Horse chestnut</b> | <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> | Approx. Height: 12m | Average Spread: 5m | Age: Early-mature |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|

- It has an attractive crown profile, with little evidence of any significant past pruning. Overall it displays good form and typical of the species.
- Low branches are beginning to obstruct safe passage for public highway users.
- A prominent ornamental tree, highly visible from the public highway and surrounding residential properties.
- Outwardly and from a distance this tree appears to be in good health and structurally sound, with high growth potential.

**Conclusions:**

- There is no arboricultural justification for the proposed crown reduction work.
- There are valid reasons for the proposed crown lifting to 5m over the carriageway. Crown lifting proposed for other aspects exceeds that which is necessary or desirable.
- The tree is a significant feature in the street scene and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

**Recommendations:**

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

**Advisory:**

- If the applicant were to re-submit with the following work specification, I could recommend APPROVAL, subject to the conditions beneath:
  - Crown lift on East aspect to achieve 5metres clearance above carriageway.
  - Crown lift to a maximum of 2.5metres on all other aspects.

**Conditions To Be Applied to Approved Work: -**

- 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.

**Reasons:** In the interests of the tree's continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

Mark Warwick  
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team