

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: R/167/20/T

Location: 32 Bushby Avenue, Rustington, BN16 2BY

Description of works: Various works to various trees

Reasons given: **Tree in decline.** General maintenance. Proximity to built structures (high growth potential).

Comments on Application:

T2 Yew / *Taxus baccata* Height: 5-10m Spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

- The applicant has employed Arbortec Services as agent, to prepare and submit a tree survey and plan. This is comprehensive and includes a detailed work specification with satisfactory reasons given for each item.
- There is one Tree Preservation Order affecting this site – TPO/R/1/01. The above plot is within Group 5 of that Order. The Group protection only applies to the yew tree (T2). Consent from the local planning authority is not required for any work proposed for the other items listed.
- T2 is long-established and grows at the front of the property in a prominent position. Once healthy it would have contributed positively to the street-scene for many years and been enjoyed by traffic accessing/exiting this part of the estate. It now appears to be under significant physiological distress, evidenced by very low crown density and weak secondary growth response. It is highly unlikely to recover.
- Where a tree is removed for such reasons, a duty in law exists to secure a replacement. By selecting the same species for planting, that tree will instantly enjoy the same level of Statutory Protection as its predecessor; ensuring a degree of continuity in the landscape.

Conclusions:

- The decline and subsequent removal of the yew tree (T2) represents a notable loss of visual amenity.
- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- Once the tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 3metres.

This is to be of Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the yew tree.

The species shall be selected from the following:-

Yew *Taxus baccata*

Irish yew *Taxus baccata Fastigiata*

- **Reasons:** To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team