

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: R/272/18/T

Location: 1 St. Anthony's Way, Rustington, BN16 3EA

Description of works: Fell and remove 1 No. Beech tree & 1 No. Prunus Pissardii tree

Reasons Given: T2. Overbearing and blocking sunlight T4. Poor condition, disproportionate to dwelling

Comments on Application:

T2 beech / <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Height: Approx.12m	Average spread: 2m	Age class: Mature
T4 purple-leaved plum / <i>Prunus cerasifera cv</i>	Height: Approx.7m	Average spread: 1.5m	Age class: Mature

- T2 - Outwardly and from a distance it appears to be in a fair physiological state, although a large portion of the heavy main stem and surrounding ground conditions were not assessed. It has been the subject of extensive crown reduction and lifting operations which cumulatively have denied this tree adequate crown volume to sustain it. A number of branches are either dead or in decline. The form of this tree is such that while interesting by virtue of its size and historic landscape value - it provides little visual amenity to the surrounding area and is unlikely to ever present an attractive and tolerable crown profile.
- T4 – A small, established ornamental tree in apparent good health but only of moderate form, having been the subject of past crown reduction work. There is a significant decay fungi present at the main stem union, which although not investigated is likely to reduce the safe, useful life expectancy of the tree.
- Both trees are prominent and highly visible to surrounding properties and public highway (road and footway).

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds as both trees are compromised by the severity of past pruning work and/or ingress of significant decay.
- The beech tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and its loss will be of detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendations:

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

Condition To Be Applied to Approved Work: -

Once the tree (T4) 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 2metres.

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 purple-leaved plum tree. The species shall be selected from the following:-

Purple-leaved plum *Prunus cerasifera Nigra/Pissardii*

Field maple *Acer campestre*

Silver birch *Betula pendula*

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

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team