

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
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From: Andrew Ratcliffe
Sent: 28 March 2022 11:49
To: Harry Chalk <Harry.Chalk@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: WA/14/22/T, 1 No. Silver Birch Tree

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Thank you for this information and I accept the proposal to amend the application description.

- 'Remove lowest 9 branches of variable diameter (2 from NW aspect, 1 from N aspect, 3 from E and S aspects).'

Regards

Andrew Ratcliffe

On Mon, 28 Mar 2022 at 11:25, Harry Chalk <Harry.Chalk@arun.gov.uk> wrote:

Good morning Mr Ratcliffe,

I have received consultation from the ADC Tree Officer regarding the Silver Birch Tree in this application. The comments are as follows:

- This tree appears to be in a fine physiological state. Uniform and open limb/branch framework offers an impressive crown profile.
- Visible in part from public highway and almost entirely from Baptist Church Hall car park.
- Seems to be in harmony with its surroundings (relationship to dwellings) although naturally dominant over gardens.
- Whole crown reduction pruning will permanently alter the crown profile and visual effect.

Conclusions:

- The applicant is concerned about the dominance of this tree over garden shrubs and bedding, a view I have some sympathy with as despite birch being a relatively open-crowned tree – it is at the top-end of the rear garden and may feel oppressive.
- Improving conditions around the tree can be achieved by more sympathetic pruning (e.g., crown lifting) without incurring a loss of amenity.

Recommendation:

- As it stands, I am unable to support this application. I would like the applicant to be invited to agree to a revised proposal for lesser works (as described below) and as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay. Such work would go some way to addressing their concerns whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:
- 'Remove lowest 9 branches of variable diameter (2 from NW aspect, 1 from N aspect, 3 from E and S aspects).'

I am inclined to agree with the Tree Officer. As the tree is in a fine physiological state, It would be inappropriate to permanently alter its appearance if the reasons for said alterations can be achieved to some degree by other means. Therefore, could we request approval to amend the description of works to those described above? (Remove lowest 9 branches of variable diameter (2 from NW aspect, 1 from N aspect, 3 from E and S aspects)).

If agreeable, could I request a response **at your earliest convenience?** so as to not incur any delays.

Kind regards,

Harry

Harry Chalk

Planning Officer, Development Management



T: 01903 737577

E: harry.chalk@arun.gov.uk

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