Removal of Beech Tree (No. 63) at Land at The Elms

Planning permission has been granted (15/02914/1) for a new dwelling but theer is one Beech Tree that obstructs the rear two story gable of the house. The tree would lead to unacceptable shading of the windows and the physical proximity of the branches to the roof would lead to on-going problems of maintenance. There are many other mature beech trees on the site and within close proximity.

Pruning of the tree would have to be so severe that it would compromise the health and looks of the tree and its removal would appear to be the best option. This would allow the adjacent beech trees to flourish.

A statement from a recognised expert is given below in support of the removal.

Heritage Arboriculture Ltd

Owned and operated by Neil Smith. Neil has 13 years of experience as a Tree Surgeon and Arborist, and is an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist and Member - UI1158A.

Reducing canopy size stresses the tree because of the cuts required. Unlike a thinning cut, a drop-crotching cut does not cut back to a natural boundary, this means that decay can spread quickly inside cut branches, for this reason it is best not to perform crown reduction if at all possible. In many instances, canopies cannot be properly reduced in size to the extent desired and certain species such as Beech do not lend themselves to crown reduction.

Over pruning of the trees to create the desired effect can initiate decay in the trunk or branches and stimulate rapid epicormic growth that fills in the canopy as it quickly grows to it's original size.

Removal and replacement with a smaller maturing plant may be the choice that minimizes the input of resources. When a customer wishes to reduce the height, crown reducing is much preferred to topping.

Excessive sprouting accompanied by die back or decay often occurs if you cut back to a branch that is too small. It is unreasonable to expect more than about a 15-20% reduction in size of canopy from a properly executed crown reduction.