

Thank you for making public the reasons for this application to fell – TPO Beech at 34 Christopher Way. (All my previous comments still stand, with the addition of the following).

However, the reasons provided do not necessarily mean a death sentence for this beech – it is a particularly significant Heritage tree within the local area. It stands on a generous curve of Christopher Way making it an attractive feature to be appreciated as one approaches from either direction, and visible well beyond the owner's property, (please refer to photos from 2009, 2011 and 2021 in my previous submitted comments).

Regrettably it has been over-pruned more than once, and this may have contributed to the stress this tree is coping with.

Vertical cracks in beech bark are not uncommon, and can be caused by several natural processes;

Frost with fluctuating with hotter day time temperatures (NB, the crack is on the sunny southeast side). Splitting bark can also be due to the tree wood growing faster than the bark because of wetter conditions following dry weather which slowed growth, or stress (e.g. compaction around roots), poor pruning or waterlogging

This crack is approx. 4ft long and very narrow (approx.10mm wide), but there is no information about the depth of the crack.

As long as the heartwood, the dense inner part of a tree's trunk, is not showing through, there is nothing to worry about and the tree will be fine. If the heartwood is showing, then an easy access for wood decaying organisms has developed, which could lead to problems later on in the life of the tree.

Vertical cracks are usually shored up by the tree to protect itself.

A qualified independent arborist should be asked determine the potential for failure by measuring the bark thickness in a few locations around the tree's circumference, determining the width of the crack opening, and looking for the presence of any other type of defect.

Only then can felling the tree be justified.

If this is the outcome, the tree must be replaced by a standard beech, either on site or within Emsworth. This replacement notice must be presented as part of consent.