

Arun District Council

Date Inspected: 06/08/14

Inspector: Dafydd Lloyd

Planning Officer: Damian Sullivan

Planning Application Ref: AB/84/14/T

Location: Land to the rear of 20-50 Fitzalen Road Arundel

Description of works:

- Fell 3 No Willow trees and various other surgeries to 18 No Willow trees (mainly reductions of 35%), sever Ivy on all trees

Applicants Reasons:

- Crown reduction for public health and safety and previous legal issues with adjacent land owners

Comments on Application and Survey:

- Outlined trees are maturing willows which have been planted parallel to the river Arun, just set back behind the raised river banks.
- These trees are highly visible from the A27 (where it spans the river Arun), which bypasses Arundel. These trees also provide an excellent screening effect and noise barrier for the properties that back onto this area from Fitzalen road.
- The outlined willows have showing evidence of previous crown reductions. These reductions appear to have met the current BS 3998:2010, and the host trees have responded well, with most trees showing excellent vigour and leaf density. It is quite evident the pendulous nature of this species is causing
- This application has stated it would like to commit to a 35% reduction. This does however contravene the GEN7 policy, of the Arun District Local Plan which states: *'The Crown Reduction should not exceed the removal of single branch lengths which are greater than 1m from the periphery of the original crown diameter. The branch removals should leave healthy substantial leaf bearing side branches. All side branches to be retained should be at least 1/3rd in diameter of the removed branch. Pruning cuts must be flat and smooth, kept as small as possible by cutting at an optimum angle and should not exceed 100mm in diameter'*.
- I will however, allow the arborists conducting the operation to bring back the final finishing points at suitable positions in the crown (for this instance it would mean reducing back to historical pruning positions. Reducing back to

these historical pruning positions, would mean an 35% reduction, as indicated on the submitted application. Given the growth habit of willows, and their vigorous response to a heavy reduction, I would actually be happy to allow up to the 35% requested, as the longevity of the outlined trees should not be effected, and also ideally the historical pruning points should not be undermined.

- The trees highlighted as needed more work than the standard 35% reduction and there extra works are:

T9/T16/T20 – Fell and remove (all these trees are showing signs of d/d/d, also showing a poor growth form. They are also beginning to get suppressed by neighbouring trees)

T-7 – Prune back south-westerly limb by 4 meters (large south-westerly limb in lower crown, ok to reduce to balance consideration should be made that no more that the allowed 35% of the crown is removed by allowing this additional action, with the reduction)

T-8 – large cavity spotted, reduce and re-inspect by EA. in two years' time (this needs to followed up by the applicant)

T22 - Prune back easterly spread by 3 meters to balance (large easterly limb in crown, ok to reduce to balance. consideration should be made that no more that the allowed 35% of the crown is removed by allowing this additional action, with the reduction)

- Although in most cases Ivy does not have a detrimental effect on an host trees wellbeing, and can offer habitat and provider nutrient for other species (berries etc.), it should be noted that it is very difficult to assess the visual condition of an main stem with it being clad in Ivy.

Conclusions

- The survey submitted has been adequate to highlight the visual assessed potential hazards these trees are exhibiting.
- I would therefore like to approve all remedial pruning and felling works as long as the apse the outlined working conditions
- I would also like to approve the severing of all the Ivy on these trees, as it would allow a more competent visual tree inspection to take place in future.

Condition To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

Where whole branches are to be removed final cuts close to the trunk or branch union are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010 and all shortened branches are to be cut at the correct angle (see also BS3998:2010) and adjacent to a live bud or lateral.

Reasons : In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

Crown Clean

The Crown Clean should consist of deadwood and stub removal where all cuts should be made to the branch collar. Where crossing branches are encountered the weaker branch/branches should be reduced or removed to avoid contact between them. The remaining branch/branches should be shortened as appropriate to relieve 'end weight' and sudden exposure by reducing the leaf bearing branch tips by no more than 30%.

REASON

In order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery in the interests of retaining good health and amenity in accordance with policy GEN7 of the Arun District Local Plan'.

Dafydd Lloyd

Tree officer