

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley
Reference: AW/100/22/T
Location: 63 Barrack Lane, Aldwick, PO21 4DE
Proposal: Fell 1no. wild cherry tree (T1)
Reasons given: Causing damage to front lawn. To stop damage to drainage pipeline and inspection chamber.

Comments on Application:

T1 Wild cherry / *Prunus avium* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and has an attractive crown profile. It offers visual amenity to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway) and contributes to the verdant character of the area. The tree is long-established and at mature life-stage. Growth potential can reasonably be stated as moderate.
- The applicant has employed The Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd. as agent to assess the tree and provide a report on its condition.
- I did not observe major deadwood throughout the crown. In any event, the removal of dead branches from a protected tree qualifies as an exception and does not require prior consent from the local planning authority.
- Similarly, problematic low growth over public highway can be removed as that too qualifies as an exception (see advisory).
- Although proximity of tree roots to drains can be a concern, no evidence has been submitted that implicates this tree in a damage event or suggests a foreseeable risk of doing so.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed has not been justified on arboricultural grounds. Structural imperfections such as described in the consultant's report are typical of species type at this life-stage and not sufficient in my view to justify a significant intervention.
- No damage to subterranean utility apparatus has been evidenced.

Note: Where drains have become defective they will invite root ingress which often leads to obstruction and increased damage. This can usually be resolved by mechanical cutting of roots within and sleeving of the vulnerable pipe sections permitting retention of the responsible tree(s).

Recommendation:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Advisory:

- Regulation 14 – (1) (c) of The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012 permits '*The lopping of tree branches to the extent that such works are urgently necessary to remove an immediate risk of serious harm*' as an exception from the normal application process. In practice this means that the applicant is permitted, at this location, to prune the branches which overhang the public highway to achieve overhead clearance of a maximum 2.5m above the footway and 5.5m above the carriageway, without requiring prior consent from the local planning authority. It is important not to exceed those limits, to do so may constitute an offence.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer
Neighbourhood Services