

Planning Officer: Richard Sherman

Planning Application Ref: **AW/106/21/T**

Location: **2 The Courtyard, Fish Lane, Aldwick, PO21 3AJ**

Description of works: **Fell 1no. beech tree and replace with a small (6ft) Red Robin Tree**

Reasons given: Inappropriate type for garden / excessive shading

Comments on Application:

Beech / *Fagus sylvatica* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

- The tree appears outwardly (restricted view) to be in a fair-fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary.
- It presents a dense crown of slightly stunted form, perhaps a consequence of hostile growing conditions (large areas of hard surfacing across rooting area) and past severe pruning. Despite all that, it should present an attractive crown profile when in leaf.
- Whilst remaining healthy it possesses high growth potential and so easily outgrow its confined location if left unattended to.
- It is a prominent landscape feature to surrounding properties but visible only in part from publicly accessible land.

Conclusions:

- The tree work proposed in the application has not been justified on arboricultural grounds.
- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. Its removal would be detrimental to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendation:

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

Advisory:

- The applicant might want to seek the advice of a Tree Specialist (if not already) to properly assess its condition and advise on appropriate pruning if a degree of containment is desired. I would suggest a very light reduction of the overall crown spread and removal of crossing branches/low-level epicormic growth around the crown-break - would be appropriate and stand a good chance of gaining approval. A new application would be required.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team