

Planning Officer: Richard Sherman

Planning Application Ref: AW/111/21/T

Location: 1 Waters Edge, Aldwick, PO21 4AW

Description of works: Re-pollard of 5no. poplars back to previous pollarding points

Reasons given: Cyclical maintenance pruning

Comments on Application:

5x poplar / *Populus sp.* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

- I have considered this application by means of a desktop review, using the information and plans submitted as well as online resources.
- From the photograph submitted, these trees appear to be in a fine physiological state (and assumed to be so in the absence of any information/evidence provided to the contrary). 'Pollarded' trees but crudely initiated with a 'topping out' of stems and absence of limb/branch framework.
- They grow towards the rear of the property and can be seen from neighbouring dwellings but are visible only with difficulty from publicly accessible land.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of these trees, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce their overall height and spread with a view to restricting growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- While a temporary loss of aesthetic value is inevitable, satisfactory canopy renewal and recovery should occur if the work is undertaken to a high standard and at an appropriate time of year.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- Part a) Where whole branches are to be removed and final cuts made close to the trunk or branch union they are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010
- Part b) Where branches are to be shortened back the final cuts are to be made at the correct angle shown in BS3998:2010 and adjacent to a live bud or lateral.
- Part c) The removal of crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.

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

- See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter

Advisory:

- While typically able to tolerate hard pruning, poplar is prone to bleeding from wounds. Optimum time for hard pruning is the mid-winter period (late-December to early-February) period. The work should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

