

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: AW/125/20/T

Location: 229 Aldwick Road, Aldwick, PO21 3QG

Description of works: Re-pollard back to main stem to 1no. weeping willow tree

Reasons given: None provided

Comments on Application:

Golden weeping willow / *Salix x sepulcralis Chrysocoma* Height: 5-10m Spread: 0-5m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state. Small cavities associated with historic pruning wounds suggest a degree of stem decay.
- It is highly visible from numerous properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). A 'pollarded' tree but crudely initiated with a 'topping out' of the main stem and severe truncation of limb framework. As such, the tree provides visual amenity only during the crown renewal/recovery stage. That has been vigorous since the last operation (c2012) and typical of a healthy example of its type, although asymmetric due to competing with willow trees on neighbouring property (recently re-pollarded).
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of this tree, to achieve a degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.

Conclusions:

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

Recommendations:

- 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 interest of the tree's 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:

- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late-spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team