

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner

Planning Application Ref: **AW/141/19/T**

Location: **4 Woodstock Gardens, Aldwick, PO21 3PR**

Description of works: **Reduce by 2-3m back to previous pruning points 2no. sycamore trees**

Reason Given: Maintain trees at reduced dimensions to reduce risk of gale damage

Comments on Application:

Sycamore x2 / *Acer pseudoplatanus* Average height: 16m Average spread: 4m Age class: Early mature

- Both trees are of apparent good health albeit with heavily modified crowns. They grow at the front of the property and are prominent within the close. They can also be seen by traffic accessing/exiting this part of the estate. As such, they have public amenity value.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining life-span of these trees, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce overall height and spread with a view to restricting their 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.

Recommendations:

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

Conditions To Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- The long-term vitality of these trees is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during either the summer (June to August) or mid-winter (mid-December to mid-February) periods.

Reasons: To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

