

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe
Planning Application Ref: AW/160/20/T
Location: 5A Balmoral Close, Aldwick, PO21 4PP
Description of works: Fell 1No. sycamore (T1)
Reasons given: Decay and poor structure at base

Comments on Application:

Sycamore / *Acer pseudoplatanus* Height: 15-20m Spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- The applicant has employed S & P Tree Specialists Ltd to assess the tree and provide a brief report on its condition. I concur with their findings and support the proposal, which is easier to accept given there is ample room and desire to secure an adequate replacement tree at the same location.
- Although a large and visually impressive tree, the attractive crown profile to some extent masks an accumulation of structural defects at base level and approaching mid-height; that unfortunately cannot be satisfactorily ameliorated by any pruning regime.
- Outwardly this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state. Triple stemmed from low-level with significant compression between unions. Large area of bark loss on outer stem with desiccation of exposed sapwood and probable significant decay. Heavy crown development on that stem following past pollarding (topping) below existing half-height. All three stems subsequently the subject of reduction pruning; this has led to an unusually heavy and complex crown.
- A loss of so much canopy demands an adequate replacement tree of a type that will grow to similar stature and have longevity.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is necessary to mitigate an unacceptable risk of catastrophic failure and so justified on arboricultural grounds.
- There is a duty under the circumstances and importantly a desire from the applicant, to secure an adequate replacement following the removal of this tree.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following condition:
Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -
- Once the tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 4metres.

This is to be of Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the sycamore tree.

The species shall be selected from the following: -

Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, **Pedunculate oak** *Quercus robur*, **Field maple** *Acer campestre*, **Hornbeam** *Carpinus betulus*

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team