Arun District Council **Date Inspected**: 04/08/14

Inspector: Dafydd Lloyd

Planning Officer: David Eastern

Planning Application Ref: AW/171/14/T

Location: Malmayers, Dark Lane, Strange Garden Estate, Aldwick, West Sussex

Description of works: Prune Back the lateral spread on north side of tree by up to 2 meters, prune upper canopy where needed to maintain shape, crown lift over the roadway by up to 1 meter.

Applicants Reasons: work is being proposed to improve road lighting as the tree canopy is obscuring the street light

Comments on Application:

- This tree is on situated on a highly visible grass verge, within the col-de-sac of Dark Lane, Aldwick.
- The outlined tree has evidence of historical heavy pruning (pollarded at 1 meter, then a reduction at about 4 meters). This has caused a very open formed crown with many primary limbs.
- This tree does have a fairly natural crown (although the NE side is fuller to compensate for the prevailing wind coming in from an SW direction)
- It is evident a few branches have grown towards and are now encompassing the given street light. These branches only protrude out of the natural line of the canopy by a maximum of one meter, and have obviously been effected by the artificial light.
- It is also evident that the canopy roadside is contacting vehicles as they use the highway (included bark and some minor damage to the lowest branches roadside). This damaged branches all appear to be at around 3 meters.

Conclusions

- **It would be therefore my recommendation that the canopy of this tree is pruned back away from the street light by 1 meter, as this would leave a more even form to the crown.** This would mean the reduction of 4 x small/medium lateral limbs by the 1 meter allowed for.
- **I would also like to approve the crown raise roadside of 3 meters.** This would mean the removal of a number smaller diameter branches that are already showing abiotic damage from passing underneath this tree.
- **As what has been approved above should not affect the overall form, there should be no need to reduce any other lateral branches.**

- **Also I would recommend that the height is not reduced as it would have a drastic effect on the appearance of this particular tree.** This tree is planted with plenty of space and should be left to reach its natural height before height reductions are considered.

Dafydd Lloyd

Tree officer

Condition To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -
Where whole branches are to be removed final cuts close to the trunk or branch union are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010 and all shortened branches are to be cut at the correct angle (see also BS3998:2010) and adjacent to a live bud or lateral.
Reasons : In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.