Arun District Council

Date Inspected: 27th February 2018

Planning Officer: **Amber Willard**

Planning Application Ref: **AW/17/18/TC**

Location: **9 Willow Way, Aldwick**

Description of works: **Reduce 1 No. Eucalyptus and 1No.Willow tree to previous pruning points approx. 2-3m. Crown lift 1No. Acacia by 3m**

Reasons Given: **N/a**

Comments on Application:

Eucalyptus *Eucalyptus sp.* Height: 10m Spread: 3m Age: Mature

- To some extent it is a shame that this tree has been the subject of stem truncation and heavy reduction of its limb framework. As healthy trees of this type will do, it has responded with vigour to the heavy crown reduction work (more of a pollard-type operation), undertaken c2013. Repeating this operation is now necessary to limit the risk of future branch failure.

False acacia *Robinia pseudoacacia* Height: 5.5m Spread: 2.5m Age: Semi-mature

- Lack of formative pruning has resulted in a wayward limb that dog-legs over the road, with low branches encroaching towards the carriageway. Mid-upper crown profile is uniform and establishing well. Crown lifting (removal of low branches) to 3m would ordinarily be an excessive specification but in this case could ultimately have a positive effect on tree form. Suppressing development of this low limb is preferable to undertaking its complete removal that would create an unacceptably large wound on the main stem.

Willow *Salix sp*. Height: 6m Spread: 4m Age: Early-mature

- Tree has undergone heavy limb reduction on its NE aspect. A repeat of this operation will be necessary to reduce the risk of branch failure. Although not clearly specified – if other crown aspects are to receive sympathetic reduction work to achieve some symmetry then this would be acceptable. This tree is of relatively low amenity value and does not make a significant contribution to the character of the area.

Conclusions:

- All three trees occupy a prominent position adjacent the property's front boundary and are clearly visible from the main estate road. They appear to be in fine physiological condition.
- If the Eucalyptus and Willow trees are pruned to a high standard with respect to previous pruning cuts then what is proposed will be an entirely reasonable operation to carry out at the correct time of year (Late-winter to early-spring).
- Neighbouring trees of pine and birch provide greater amenity value due to their stature and more sympathetic pruning history; the type of long-term management of the trees as proposed herein will not significantly detract from the overall tree-lined character of the area.

Recommendations:

- I raise **No Objection** to the works that have been applied for and see no reason to make a TPO in this instance.

Advisory:

- When undertaking repeat crown reduction work - remove branches to just beyond position of past pruning cuts in order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery, in the interests of tree health and long-term vitality.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team