

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner

Planning Application Ref: **AW/181/19/T**

Location: **2 Lichfield Gardens, Aldwick, PO21 3RB**

Description of works: **Crown reduction by 4m to 2no. weeping willow trees**

Reasons Given: Obstruction of public access along highway and interference with building and street lighting

Comments on Application:

2x Golden weeping willow / *Salix x sepulcralis* var *Chrysocoma*

Average height: 8m Average spread: 4m Age class: Early mature

- Both trees appear to be in fine a physiological state with attractive crown profiles. They are of similar size and age, with a shared history of regular crown reduction pruning.
- They grow at the side of the property and are prominent roadside. They are highly visible to through traffic (footways and carriageway). 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, which are of high growth potential in a relatively confined space, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for the location.
- The crown reduction operation proposed, is effectively a re-pollard.

Conclusions:

- These trees have the potential to develop heavy and congested limb/branch frameworks if allowed to grow unchecked, such that they would suffer partial failure of the same, within a relatively short time-frame. The proposal to reduce overall height and spread with a view to restricting 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: -

- 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.
- 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 long-term vitality of these trees 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 must only be undertaken during this period.

- All ivy should be cleared from the main stem and limb/branch framework to facilitate the development of new growth from dormant bud locations.

Reasons: In the interests of the trees 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:

- Regulation 14 – (1) (c) of The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012 permits ‘*The lopping of tree branches to the extent that such works are urgently necessary to remove an immediate risk of serious harm*’ as an exception from the normal application process. In practice this means that the applicant is permitted to prune the branches which overhang the public highway to achieve overhead clearance of a maximum 2.5m above the footway and 6m above the carriageway, without recourse to this authority. All other pruning work, such as the majority of which you propose in this application must await formal consent from this authority.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

