Recommendation Report for Works to Tree(s) on trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (

REF NO: **AW/186/15/T**

LOCATION: 31 Westminster Drive
Aldwick

PROPOSAL: Crown reduction of 2 No. Field Maple trees by 2.5 metres

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above
SITE AREA	n/a
TOPOGRAPHY	Predominantly flat
TREES	Positioned in rear garden.
BOUNDARY TREATMENT	Generally open to front
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	Bungalow with garden to front and rear.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	The locality is a suburban residential area.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

AW/150/09/T	30% crown reduction to large Field Maple tree	ApproveConditionally 08-10-2009

Noted

REPRESENTATIONS

Representations received:

Aldwick Parish Council

Members agreed that the Arun Arboriculturalist should be consulted regarding the application and that his recommendations/decision be applied.

Comments on Representations received:

Comments noted

CONSULTATIONS

Arboriculturist

Consultations responses received:

Councils Arboricultural Officer:

T1 Species: Field Maple Acer Campestre Height: 9m Average Branch Spread: 3m Crown Condition: fair to good Form: fair Age Class: mature

T2 Species: Field Maple Acer Campestre Height: 10m Average Branch Spread: 3m Crown

Condition: fair to good Form: fair Age Class: mature

Comments:
· The trees that have been cited in this application are standing in the rear garden of 31 Westminster Dive. Both trees however can be seen from the highway Westminster drive outside. Both trees are subject of active TPO orders.
· Form the site inspection it is clear that T1 and T2 have both had previous reduction/s. The applicant has outlined the desire to make a similar reduction/s to the reduction/s that have had historically taken place. However the applicants request to reduce by 3 meters would surpass the
established pruning points. Therefore a smaller reduction would be more suitable.

Recommendation:
· I would have an objection to the proposed reduction of 3m, as this would surpass the established pruning points.

I would like to recommend a reduction of no more than 2.5m to both T1 and T2 to the established pruning points.

Conditions:

Crown Reduction
All side branches to be retained should be at least 1/3rd in diameter of the removed branch. Pruning cuts must be flat and smooth, kept as small as possible by cutting at an optimum angle and should not exceed 100mm in diameter.

REASON: In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

Crown Clean

The Crown Clean should consist of deadwood and stub removal where all cuts should be made to the branch collar. Where crossing branches are encountered the weaker branch/branches should be reduced or removed to avoid contact between them. The remaining branch/branches should be shortened as appropriate to relieve 'end weight' and sudden exposure by reducing the leaf
bearing branch tips by no more than 30%.

REASON: In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to
accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

Comments on Consultation responses:

Comments noted

POLICY CONTEXT

Adopted Local Plan
Tree Preservation Order

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

Arun District Local Plan 2003:

PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

POLICY COMMENTARY

The above policies are general and, other than online Planning Policy Guidance under references ID 36-090-20140306 and ID 36-091-20140306, are not specific to trees.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND/OR LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states:
"If it appears to a Local Planning authority that it is expedient in the interest of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees.... they may for that purpose make an order"

The works to the trees are to be judged having regard to amenity.

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is considered that there are no other material considerations to warrant a decision otherwise than in accordance with the Development Plan and/or legislative background.

CONCLUSIONS

The Council's Arboricultural Officer has been consulted on the application and has confirmed that he has no objection to the proposed works (as amended following his original objection) subject to conditions.

The crown reduction is considered acceptable and will not detrimentally effect the visual amenity of the area given the attractive landscaping remaining.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE CONDITIONALLY

1 Crown Clean:
The Crown Clean should consist of deadwood and stub removal where all cuts should be made to the branch collar. Where crossing branches are encountered the weaker branch/branches should be reduced or removed to avoid contact between them. The remaining branch/branches should be shortened as appropriate to relieve 'end weight' and sudden exposure by reducing the leaf
bearing branch tips by no more than 30%.

REASON: In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

2 Crown Reduction: All side branches to be retained should be at least 1/3rd in diameter of the
removed branch. Pruning cuts must be flat and smooth, kept as small as possible by cutting at an optimum angle and should not exceed 100mm in diameter.

REASON: In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

3 The burning of materials obtained by site clearance or from any other source shall not

take place within 6 metres of the furthest extent of the canopy of any tree or group of trees to be retained on the site or on land adjoining.

Reason: To protect trees and vegetation from fire damage in the interests of the visual amenities of the locality.

4 The work hereby approved shall be undertaken under the supervision of the Local Planning Authority who shall be notified in writing, not less than 7 days before the work commences.

Reason: In order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery in the interests of amenity.

5 INFORMATIVE: The applicant should note that under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, with only a few exceptions, it is an offence for any person to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild birds while the nest is in use or being built. Birds nest between March and September and therefore removal of dense bushes, ivy or trees or parts of trees etc. during this period could lead to an offence under the act.

6 INFORMATIVE: This notice does not give authority to destroy or damage a bat roost or disturb a bat. Bat species are protected under Section 39 of the 1994 Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations (as amended), the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) and the 2000 Countryside and Rights of Way Act. It is illegal to damage or destroy any bat roost, whether occupied or not, or disturb or harm a bat. If you are aware that bats roost in a tree(s) for which work is planned, you should take further advice from Natural England (via the Bat Conservation Trust on 0845 1300228) or an ecological consultant before you start. If bats are discovered during the work, you must stop immediately and contact Natural England before continuing.