

[REDACTED]

From: Mark Warwick
Sent: 02 May 2018 14:17
To: Amber Willard
Cc: Planning.Responses
Subject: AW/18/18/T

Hi Amber

Please find attached further comments in respect of the above tree work application, following my return to site as requested.

Regards,

Mark

Mark Warwick | Tree Officer, Greenspace, Arun District Council | Location: Bognor Regis Town Hall, Clarence Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 1LD

Internal: 37974 | External: +44 (0) 1903 737974 | E-mail: mark.warwick@arun.gov.uk

Visit Arun's web site at www.arun.gov.uk



Save the environment - think before you print.

Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: AW/18/18/T

Location: 94a The Fairway, Aldwick

Description of works: Pollard 1No. Willow tree to the South and South East by 5m, South West by 3m, West and North by 8m and East over the driveway by 7m.

Reasons Given: Excess weight in canopy overhanging public footpath and neighbour's garden.
Light occlusion, atypical movement during strong wind, discarding of small branches.

Comments on Application:

Golden weeping willow *Salix x sepulcralis* var. *chrysocoma* Height: 12m Spread: 7m Age: Over mature

- This tree appears to be in a fine physiological state with a full and healthy crown. It has undergone historic partial windthrow as evidenced by an obvious stem lean away from prevailing wind direction. Despite this it appears to be structurally sound despite erratic and asymmetric form. It is ivy-clad in part and so my assessment of its condition is not comprehensive.
- It has been the subject of one recent crown modification (c2003 – 25% applied for) and has responded with vigour.
- This tree is visible from neighbouring property and highly visible from the main estate access road.
- The frequent discarding of small branches is typical of such aged examples of its type at exposed coastal locations and not obviously associated with an underlying health condition.
- I have re-visited the site with the applicant in attendance to take precise measurements of the existing crown spread at four logical compass points, they are as follows: North West – 11.5m, North East – 10m, South East – 7m, South West – 7.5m.; to determine the precise extent of appropriate crown reduction/pollarding work.

Conclusions:

- The reasons proposed for the work are in the main sufficient to justify some form of crown reduction. That said, this tree is approaching over-maturity and requires careful management to ensure it retains sufficient health and vitality to endure the re-balancing of limb/branch framework now necessary to reduce the risk of large item failure.
- This tree has been allowed to develop a heavy and congested limb/branch framework which if allowed to grow on unchecked may result in partial failure of the same. The proposal to reduce its overall height and spread to mitigate this risk is both justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority but the extent now proposed is unnecessarily severe and may facilitate its rapid decline.
- If the work is undertaken to a good standard and with adequate respect for its age, then it stands a good chance of making a strong recovery and fulfilling its useful life expectancy.
- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality, in conflict with policy GEN7 of the Arun District Local Plan.
- I have agreed a revised work specification and confirmed with the applicant that I can support such an application. It is accepted that there are risks associated with this extent of pruning work in so far as there will be a degree of

physiological stress imposed on the tree and which in part does not satisfy the requirements of BS3998:2010 'Tree work – Recommendations'. That said, it is agreed that some form of crown reduction is now necessary and there is a more than reasonable chance of the tree making a full recovery.

- The applicant supports an approach whereby we amend the application to reflect the following work specification without further to recourse to himself and now proceed with issuing a decision notice:

Description of works: Pollard 1No. Willow tree to the North West by 6m, North East by 7m, South East by 4m, South West by 4m, so as to achieve a minimum of 3m radial extent of the limb/branch framework retained in all directions away from the obvious 'crown break': defined as *the point at which the first main limb grows out from the trunk.*

Top height reduction to be determined as appropriate (but not exceeding 5m) following the above reduction of lateral extents, so as to achieve a broad domed structure on completion.

Advisory:

- The applicant re-submits with a revised work proposal (specified in metres to be removed, as before) so as to achieve a minimum of 3m radial extent of the limb/branch framework retained from the obvious 'crown break': defined as *the point at which the first main limb grows out from the trunk.*

Recommendations:

- As it stands I would have to recommend a **REFUSAL** for this application.
- If the applicant re-submits in accordance with advisory comments above, then I would be able to recommend consent subject to the following conditions:
- We amend the application to reflect the recently agreed revised work specification.
- I recommend **CONSENT** for the amended application, subject to the following conditions:

Conditions That Would Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- 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.
- Pruning work such as proposed may only be undertaken during either the mid-summer (mid-June to mid-September) or mid-winter periods.
- All ivy should be cleared from the main stem and limb/branch framework to encourage the development of new growth from dormant bud locations.

Reason: - 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