

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: AW/19/20/T

Location: 6 Cedar Close, Aldwick, PO21 3BE

Description of works: Reduce overhang on neighbouring 1no. horse chestnut to 1m, reduce overhang on 1no. oak tree to 9m and reduce height to 6m and laterals to 4m on 1no. ash tree

Reasons Given: T1 – To achieve more upright habit over garden T2 – Health and safety concern in respect of subsidiary stem branching over garden

Comments on Application:

T1 Pedunculate oak / <i>Quercus robur</i>	Height: 10-15m	Spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature
T2 Horse chestnut / <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Height: 15-20m	Spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature
T3 Ash / <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Height: 10-15m	Spread: 0-5m	Age class: Semi-mature

- **T1** - Appears to be in a fair physiological state. It is twin stemmed from near its base and supports a full and unmodified upper crown, so presents an attractive profile both to surrounding residential properties and users of public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, it has high amenity value.
- There have been multiple low branch removals historically and more recently a split large limb from mid-crown.
- The applicant seeks to reduce the extent of crown spread by 2m to leave 9m, although pruning need only apply to the northern (subordinate) stem, to meet their objective.
- **T2** - Large ornamental tree which outwardly and from a distance appears to be in a fine physiological state. It has a full and spreading crown, visually impressive from surrounding residential properties and in part to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, it has high amenity value.
- The applicant seeks to address concern over the apparent weak condition of an already truncated subsidiary stem (diameter of approx. 350mm at its departure from the main stem), with resultant dense and developing limb/branch framework over garden. There is evidence of a major limb tear-out in the past. The proposed work specification could apply to all crown overhang on this aspect.
- **T3** – Not the subject of any Tree Preservation Order or other known statutory protection, nor is it a suitable candidate for the same.

Conclusions:

- The intent behind proposals for T1 and T2 is acceptable, although greater clarity is required with the specification to ensure no loss of visual amenity were that to be executed to its full extent. These are high profile specimen trees of significant public and visual amenity and must be carefully pruned to maintain reasonable enjoyment of residential property and with respect for natural tree form.
- T1 and T2 are significant features in the local landscape and appear to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application could result in excessive reduction of the trees landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendations:

- As it stands, I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Advisory:

- I would like to see the applicant submit a revised work specification such as detailed below, which would seem to address their concerns whilst preventing a diminution of the trees landscape and public amenity value:

T1 Oak (applies to subordinate stem, northernmost of twins)

- Reduce lateral extent tending east by no more than 2metres, leaving a minimum of 9metres spread from stem base.

T2 Horse chestnut (applies to truncated subsidiary stem with diameter of approx. 350mm at its departure from the main stem)

- Reduce lateral extent tending east by no more than 7metres, leaving a minimum of 1metre overhanging into garden.

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- If the applicant is prepared to re-submit in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

Part a) 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

Part b) 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.

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 NOTE 1

We are obliged to advise that where trees are situated on land not owned by the applicant the granting of consent by this authority does not by association give permission to undertake such works that require access onto/from that land. Nor does it permit any work to take place beyond the boundary of the applicant's property. Additional permission must first be obtained from the land/tree owner.

ADVISORY NOTE 2

The long-term vitality of all three 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 should only be undertaken during this period.

ADVISORY NOTE 3

The ground around these trees has recently been rutted from the use of light mechanised plant, leading to some soil compaction and minor damage to stem base and buttress roots. The roots of a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order and the soil structure in which they grow should be respected. The decline or loss of a protected tree following and attributable to wilful root damage is an offence and could lead to prosecution, with substantial fines incurred.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

