

Planning Officer: Richard Sherman

Planning Application Ref: **AW/211/21/T**

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

Description of works: **Crown reduction by 4m to 2no. weeping willow trees to height 4m and spread 5.5m**

Reasons given: To achieve adequate clearance of public highway and building.

Comments on Application:

2x Golden weeping willow / *Salix x sepulcralis* var *Chrysocoma* Height: 5-10m Radial spread: 0-5m 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.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following conditions:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- Part a) 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.
- Part b) 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 c) 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.
- Part d) 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:

- 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 should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

