

Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: AW/215/19/T

Location: 28 Barrack Lane, Aldwick, PO21 4DA

Description of works: Crown reduction by approx. 2.5m - 3m 1no. beech tree

Reasons Given: None given

Comments on Application:

Roble beech / *Nothofagus obliqua* Approx. height: 14m Average spread: 5m Age class: Early mature

- This partially ivy-clad tree is of apparent good health and has an attractive crown profile despite previously being heavily modified. It is visible from adjacent properties and in part to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway).
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant are likely to be necessary throughout the remaining life-span of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.

Conclusions:

- This tree has the potential to develop a heavy and congested limb/branch framework if allowed to grow unchecked, such that it may suffer partial failure of the same, long before it reached full maturity.
- The proposal to reduce its overall height and spread with a view to restricting its 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: -

- 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 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.
- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late-winter to early spring period (January to April). The work must only be undertaken during this period.
- All ivy should be cleared from the main stem and limb/branch framework to encourage 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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

