

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin
Planning Application Ref: **AW/224/20/T**
Location: **31 Westminster Drive, Aldwick, PO21 3RE**
Description of works: **Crown reduction to height 17m and spread 8m to 2No. Field Maple trees**
Reason given: Continued health of trees

Comments on Application:

2x Field maple / *Acer campestre* Height: 10-15m Spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance both trees appear to be in fine physiological condition and present an attractive shared crown profile. They are highly visible from surrounding properties and in part to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, they have public amenity value.
- They have been the subject of past crown reduction pruning. Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of these trees, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds. 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.
- The proposal to reduce overall height and spread with a view to restricting their growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Recommendations:

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

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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.
- Part c) 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.

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 either the summer (June to August) or mid-winter (late-December to early-February) periods. The work should only be undertaken during these periods.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

