

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner
Planning Application Ref: AW/226/19/T
Location: 219 Manor Way, Aldwick Bay Estate, PO21 4HS
Description of works: Crown reduction by 3m to 1no. copper beech tree
Reasons Given: Overgrowing property

Comments on Application:

Beech, purple-leaved / *Fagus sylvatica Purpurea* Approx. height: 12m Average spread: 5m Age class: Mature

- This tree appears to be outwardly healthy and stable (vegetation restricts view of main stem and root flare) with a relatively unmodified and attractive crown profile.
- It gives the impression of being slightly stunted, a probable consequence of it growing in such an exposed coastal location. It is prominent at the front of the property and can be clearly seen from numerous residential dwellings and by pedestrian/vehicular traffic accessing/exiting this part of the estate. As such, it has public amenity value.
- It has moderate growth potential and suitably located - occupying a near central position along front garden boundary and at a distance from the nearest dwellings that is likely to be harmonious and complimentary throughout its lifespan.
- The applicant proposes a 3metre reduction of top height and lateral spread - this exceeds the recommendations in British Standard 3998:2010 – Tree Work.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- I am unable to concur with the reasons stated as being sufficient to justify the work now proposed.
- 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.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team