

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: AW/229/18/T

Location: 52 The Drive, Aldwick PO21 4DT

Description of works: 1m lateral clearance from gutters, 1.5m clearance from roof pitch and 6m crown lift above garden to boundary wall to 1No. Norway Maple tree. 1m lateral clearance from gutter and 1.5m clearance from roof pitch to 1No. Norway Maple tree.

Reasons Given: Risk of damage to building fabric / Excessive shading over ornamental beds

Comments on Application:

T1 Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* Age class: Early mature

T2 Norway maple *Acer platanoides* Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from a distance both trees appear to be in a fine physiological state. They grow at the rear of the property and can be seen from neighbouring dwellings and in part from the shoreline.
- Crowns are relatively unmodified and present an attractive profile with established low limbs and branches.
- T1 is an important frontier tree providing shelter to companion trees which together form an important feature along the neighbouring property's boundary. As such, it should be subject to careful management.
- Building interference is negligible at this time but likely to be direct in the short-term. The removal/reduction of a few small branches is necessary to achieve long-term satisfactory clearance.
- While assessing this application, the boundary wall was determined to be that which runs alongside the west edge of the footpath (public right of way).

Conclusions:

- The element of building clearance work proposed for T1 and T2 is justified on arboricultural grounds as it seeks to prevent direct damage to the fabric of buildings.
- The extent of lateral reduction and crown lifting for T1 is excessive and does not adequately respect the natural form of the tree.
- I met with the applicant who was very amenable to revising the work proposal for T1 (lesser work), as described below.

Recommendations:

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

Advisory:

- The applicant is willing to revise the work specification for T1, to the lesser extent I have described below. On completion, this would address concern for future building interference and help improve conditions over the ornamental shrub beds whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:

T1 Sycamore

- Reduce or remove branches as necessary to achieve a maximum of 1m lateral clearance from gutters, 1.5m clearance from roof pitch.

- Reduce crown spread (west aspect) by a maximum of 2m. Crown lift or remove branches as necessary to achieve a maximum of 4m overhead clearance over property and up to 2m from boundary wall.

- On receipt of the applicant's written confirmation that they remain willing to revise the work specification for T1 as I describe, I would be able to recommend APPROVAL, subject to the following conditions being applied:

Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- 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.

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

