

Planning Officer: Richard Sherman

Planning Application Ref: AW/232/21/T

Location: 2 Shipfield, Aldwick, Bognor Regis, PO21 4AE

Description of works: 1 no. willow crack tree - reduce height to approx. 9m and spread to approx. 7.5m

Reasons given: 1. Becoming too large and blocking out light 2. Containment of crown and root growth to protect underground utility apparatus

Comments on Application:

Golden weeping willow / *Salix x sepulcralis* var. *Chrysocoma* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m
Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from a distance this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary. It has previously been pollarded at around 4metres height and received whole crown reduction pruning from around 9metres height.
- It grows at the front of the property and is prominent within the close. As such, it has public amenity value.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its 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 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.

Recommendation:

- 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) Where pollarding or crown reduction pruning has occurred previously, then 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 tree's 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 the willow tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late spring to summer period (May to August). It should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

