

**Planning Officer:** Lynnyrd Wolfe

**Planning Application Ref:** AW/236/19/T

**Location:** Royal Bay Court, 86A Barrack Lane, Aldwick, PO21 4DY

**Description of works:** Crown reduction 4m on north aspect and 2.5m on other aspects to 1no. willow tree

**Reasons Given:** None given

**Comments on Application:**

**Willow, golden weeping / *Salix sepulcralis* var. *Chrysocoma***      Approx. height: 15m    Average spread: 8m    Age class: Mature

- The map provided with the application does not seem to reflect the physical features on the ground and so the marked location of the tree is not helpful. That said, I have sought verbal confirmation from the applicant who confirms the tree subject of this application is the large, obvious and only mature willow on the site.
- This tree appears to be outwardly healthy and stable. It is a lapsed pollard, with evidence of past scaffold limb reduction between 5 and 7metres. It dominates the garden area between buildings, which is both laid to lawn and characterised by established shrub borders and ornamental features.
- For the sake of clarity, this work proposal is to reduce the crown on all aspects (including height) by a maximum of 2.5m and 4m on the north aspect only. This will result in a balanced crown profile and improve conditions for building and garden users.
- It is discreetly located within the expansive grounds of the property, although by virtue of its size has significant presence when viewed from this part of the complex. It is visible from neighbouring properties but only with difficulty from publicly accessible land.

**Conclusions:**

- If the work is undertaken to a good standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the tree's long-term vitality and visual amenity.
- There will be no loss of public amenity on completion of the proposed works.

**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 long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late-spring to summer period (May to August) or mid-winter (late-December to early-February) period. The work proposed must only be undertaken during these periods.

Mark Warwick  
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

