

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: **AW/240/18/T**

Location: **276 Aldwick Road, Aldwick PO21 3QH**

Description of works: **Reduce 1No. Magnolia by 2m in height and 1.5m in lateral spread to all sides. Crown thin by 10-20%.**

Reasons Given: Excessive shading

Comments on Application:

T1 Magnolia *Magnolia x soulangeana* Height: Approx. 8m Average spread: 4m Age class: Early mature

- This tree appears to be healthy and stable with an attractive crown profile.
- It has a full and relatively unmodified crown with established low limbs and branches.
- The applicant proposes a *crown reduction* of such an extent that would result in the approximate loss of two thirds of its crown volume, in addition to crown thinning.
- It is discreetly located within the front garden of the property, although by virtue of its size and flowering potential has significant seasonal presence, especially when regarded from its southern aspect.
- This is a fine example of its type with its most impressive aspect being visible from publicly-accessible land and the adjacent public highway (footway and carriageway), thereby providing a notable visual amenity.

Conclusions:

- The tree work proposed in the application has not been justified on arboricultural grounds and would result in undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.
- *Crown reduction* work would irrevocably spoil its natural looking form in the short-term and initiate vigorous vegetative regrowth.
- *Crown reduction* and *Crown thinning* work has not been justified on arboricultural grounds. In respect of the latter, such work rarely provides a benefit to the tree and often only a short-term increase in light levels. Furthermore, combining the two operations (and especially to the extent proposed) does not satisfy the recommendations in BS3998:2010 – Tree Work.

Recommendation:

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

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team