

Planning Officer: Richard Sherman

Planning Application Ref: AW/240/21/T

Location: 48 Fish Lane, Aldwick, PO21 3AH

Description of works: Crown reduction of 1no. maple tree to height approx. 10m and spread approx. 8m

Reasons given: To improve vigour and initiate new growth

Comments on Application:

Norway maple / *Acer platanoides* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance (roadside) this tree appears to be in a fair physiological state. It has a relatively unmodified upper crown and is visually impressive. It is visible from numerous properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway).
- Recent removal of dead (and possibly back into live tissue) branches may have initiated the low-level epicormic growth response.
- Whole crown reduction is proposed; to restore vigour and promote new growth. If the tree can sustain such a large volume loss of its primary branch network – new growth would almost exclusively have to arise from dormant buds, irrevocably altering its form.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression. Whatever pathogen or condition is responsible for the physiological stress evident; heavy pruning is going to place further demands on its energy reserve.
- Whole *crown reduction* pruning has not been justified on arboricultural grounds. The proposal would be likely to result in harm to the health and vitality of the tree with large pruning wounds being formed as well as undermining its visual amenity value and impact in the landscape.

Recommendation:

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team