

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin
Planning Application Ref: **AW/255/20/T**
Location: **1 Densihale, Aldwick, PO21 3SE**
Description of works: **Reduce to previous points 1No. silver birch tree**
Reasons given: Cyclical maintenance pruning

Comments on Application:

Silver birch / *Betula pendula* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

- I have considered this application by means of a desktop review, using the information and plans submitted as well as online resources.
- This is an established tree of apparent good health albeit with a heavily modified crown. It is visible from numerous properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway).
- 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 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.
- 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.

Recommendation:

- I recommend this application for **APPROVAL**, 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) 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 this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during either the summer (June to August) or mid-winter (late-December to early-February) periods. The work should only be undertaken during these periods.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

