

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: AW/256/19/T

Location: 22 St Richards Drive, Bognor Regis, PO21 3BJ

Description of works: Thin epicormic growth & reduce overall crown by 2.5m & reduce 3no. main branches overhanging neighbouring garages by 0.5-1m, back to boundary line to 1no. field maple tree

Reasons given: 1. Reduce sail effect 2. Reduce/remove branches with potential to be problematic

Comments on Application:

Field maple / *Acer campestre* Approx. height: 11m Average spread: 5m Age class: Mature

- Despite the co-dominant stem and large near basal wound this tree appears to be in fair physiological condition and free from obvious structural defect at this time. It has a heavily modified crown, being subject to a reduction (pollard) in the past.
- It grows at the rear of the property and can be seen from neighbouring dwellings but has only limited visibility from publicly accessible land.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining life-span 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.

Recommendations:

- 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) 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.
- Part d) The long-term vitality of these trees 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 must only be undertaken during these periods.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

