

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: AW/261/17/T

Location: 43 The Drive, Aldwick

Description of works: Crown reduction by 4m and prune back to previous growth points
& crown thinning by 30% to 1 No Sycamore

Reasons Given: To keep growth habit of the tree under control and allow more light into the garden

Comments:

Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* Height - 14m Avge Spread - 7m Age - Mature

- Sound and healthy and a significant and very prominent tree in the landscape.
- It is positioned due south of the house and does dominate the rear garden area beneath it and must when in full leaf cast considerable shade on same so I can sympathise with the desire to control its growth habit as has been done before.

Conclusions:

- The balance to be achieved here is between improving matters for the owner without undermining the amenity value of the tree in the landscape.
- The works proposed involve a very heavy crown reduction in one operation down to the previous pruning points which would remove almost all of the live foliage which would undermine this trees value in the landscape – there would be nothing left to thin after this.
- On this occasion I think it would be best to just reduce by 1m and thin the crown by no more than 15% and then come back in a couple of growing seasons time seeking the next stage down of reduction each time seeking to get closer to the original level of pruning but retaining a tree of amenity value.
- To prune so heavily in one go will be counterproductive in promoting a mass of dense regrowth from around the wounds and thus intensifying shading issues.

Recommendations:

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

ADVISORY:

I suggest that they resubmit seeking the following works:-

1. Crown reduction by no more than 1m in height and lateral spread overall.
2. Crown thinning by no more than 15%.

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist