

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: AW/268/21/T

Location: Malmayne Court, Aldwick Fields, Aldwick, PO21 3SW

Description of works: Ash (T1). Fell due to terminal disease. Replant with one standard specimen of a suitable species

Reasons given: Tree is moribund

Comments on Application:

Common ash / *Fraxinus excelsior* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Early mature

- This is an established tree with an unmodified and attractive upper crown profile. It appears to have suffered physiological decline in the last couple of years. The reason(s) for this may be complicated, as I have been unable to confirm the presence of Chalara ash dieback (although some typical symptoms present) and disturbance over its rooting zone has occurred during development of the neighbouring property.
Note: root dysfunction typically presents as dieback from the crown periphery.
- Crown density is moderate, with scattered tip dieback although some signs of physiological fortitude in lower and interior branches. The tree appears generally sound and stable whilst dead branches present a developing risk of harm to persons or property. The removal of deadwood is an exception and does not require consent from the local planning authority.

Conclusions:

- The tree is clearly under physiological stress, but we are not availed of a satisfactory prognosis. As our understanding of *Chalara ash dieback* increases, in particular the varying degrees of resistance in individuals and potential for recovery post-infection; there ought not to be a presumption to fell those trees which present symptoms typically associated with confirmed cases – unless health and safety exceptions apply.
- If the tree is highly valued by the landowner/management, then it may be appropriate to undertake removal of major deadwood and monitor condition, with a final determination likely to be necessary next summer. Alternatively, it may be considered an opportunity now to remove the tree and replace with a tree type more appropriate for the location and which can adapt to the altered environment.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

Once the tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 3metres.

This is to be of Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the ash tree.

The species shall be selected from the following:-

Field maple *Acer campestre*

Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*

Hop hornbeam *Ostrya carpinifolia*

Italian alder *Alnus cordata*

Maidenhair tree *Ginkgo biloba*

- **Reasons:** To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team