

Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: AW/278/17/T

Location: 2 Shipfield, Bognor Regis

Description of works: Crown reduction to 1 No Willow to previous pollard points

Reasons Given: To keep growth habit of the tree under control

Comments:

Weeping Willow *Salix babylonica* Height - 8m Avge Spread - 5m Age - Early-Mature

- A visually highly significant tree in the landscape that is sound and healthy.
- This tree has been very heavily reduced and reshaped in the past.
- The operation now being sought would totally undermine its visual amenity value and remove almost all live foliage in one go leaving it as a trunk and scaffold limbs.

Conclusions:

- I accept that there are drains nearby and that the regular pruning of this tree is advisable but they have left it six years since the last pruning and to now bring it down by a massive amount is not acceptable.
- I suggest a half way situation where the regrowth from the old pruning points is reduced by 2m to 3m so that at least it retains some shape and form.
- They can then come back in after a further couple of growing seasons and seek to prune a little lower if they wish thus getting it down gradually to a smaller size.

Recommendations:

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

ADVISORY:

I would urge the applicant to review this situation and come back in with an application to crown reduce and reshape overall by no more than 3m.

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist