

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: **AW/281/18/T**

Location: **25 Rucrofts Close, Aldwick Fields, PO21 3SL**

Description of works: **Crown reduction of 3m to 1 No. Lombardy poplar tree & Crown thin of 10% to 1 No. horse chestnut tree**

Reasons Given: 1. Careful management to improve health/structure (T1/2) 2. Safety concerns (T3)

Comments on Application:

T1/2 Horse chestnut / *Aesculus hippocastanum* Height: Approx. 16m Average spread: 4m Age class: Semi-mature

T3 Lombardy poplar / *Populus nigra Italica* Height: Approx. 20m Average spread: 3m Age class: Mature

- T1/2 Actually a twin-stemmed individual tree, in apparent fair condition although slightly suppressed by larger companion trees and consequently of drawn-up form.
- Crown thinning is sought primarily to attend to crossing/weak branches.
- T3 appears to be in a fine physiological state. It has multiple low stem unions at different heights. Tall and leggy scaffold limbs will no doubt oscillate alarmingly during episodes of exposure to high wind speed although clearly it has endured to date.
- T3 - The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during either the summer (mid-June to mid-September) or mid-winter (mid-December to mid-February) periods. Ideally, the work proposed should only be undertaken during these periods.
- Where desired, the removal of dead branches from any preserved tree can be carried out without the need for permission from the local planning authority.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is entirely reasonable if not justified and there will be no significant loss of public amenity on completion of the proposed works.

Recommendations:

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

Conditions To Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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
- 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.

Reasons: In the interests of the trees 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.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team