

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: AW/28/18/T

Location: 'Craig Rock Cottage', 28 The Drive, Aldwick

Description of works: Crown reduction to previous pruning points & 2m height reduction to 1No. Bay Laurel. Crown reduction of 2.5m to 1No. Holm Oak. Height reduction of 2m to 1No. Holm Oak. Crown reduction of 0.5m & 1m height reduction to 1No. Leyland Cypress.

Reasons Given: T1, T4 & T5 – To improve light penetration and maintain trees in current size and condition. T6 – To sustain formal appearance of hedge

Comments On Application:

- T1 and T4 have been subject to crown reduction work relatively recently in their lifetime. Repeat operations such as being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining life-span of these trees, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.
- T5 is a young tree of its type and has very high growth potential. It is growing in close proximity to an aged built structure.
- T6 are a small linear group of Leyland cypress with high growth potential and the applicant proposes a light trim to keep them at dimensions appropriate for their setting and intended purpose.
- All the above trees are visible from surrounding properties and have varying levels of significance in respect of their prominence and aesthetic value, T1 and T4 being by far the most significant, T5 and T6 much less so.

Conclusions:

- (T1 and T4) If the work is undertaken to good standard, then repeating work at this time is unlikely to have a negative effect on their long-term vitality.
- (T5) This tree will rapidly outgrow its location and exert direct pressure on the adjacent wall; therefore the proposal to reduce its overall height with a view to restricting its growth is justified.
- (T6) It is probable that this small group of Leyland cypress were planted (and have been regularly maintained) for the purpose of boundary screening. Annual trimming of new growth is the recognised management practice for such trees in these locations.

Advisory:

- In respect of T5 - the applicant is aware of 3rd party ownership of this tree, nevertheless we are obliged to advise that any consent granted by the Local Planning Authority does not by association provide authority to undertake the proposed work without first seeking permission from the tree owner.

Recommendations:

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

Condition - The removal of crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.

Reason - In order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery, in the interests of tree health and long-term vitality.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team