

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: **AW/295/20/T**

Location: **32 St Richards Way, Aldwick, PO21 3BB**

Description of works: **Various works to various trees**

Reasons given: **1. Cyclical maintenance (crown reduction cycle). 2. Health and safety (structural integrity)**

Comments on Application:

- The applicant has submitted a detailed tree survey and plan. Those are comprehensive and include a work programme with satisfactory reasons given for each item.
- No individual trees are worthy of specific comment for the purposes of reviewing this application; all can be satisfactorily considered for generic comment, as follows.
- The rear garden is in large part dominated by the presence of mature oak and field maple, such that it has a woodland feel. The majority have been the subject of successive crown reduction pruning operations. The oaks in particular have grown-on well and a repeat of this exercise will be necessary throughout their remaining lifespan to ensure a degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.
- The removal/reduction of dead or imminently dangerous stems/branches is an exception and does not require permission, although in respect of the latter those undertaking are required to notify this authority at the earliest opportunity and works should only be to the extent that the immediate threat to person(s) or property is abated. Any work desired beyond that which is absolutely necessary requires a formal application.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce their overall height and spread with a view to restricting growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- While a temporary loss of aesthetic value is inevitable, satisfactory canopy renewal and recovery should occur if the work is undertaken to a high standard and at an appropriate time of year.

Recommendations:

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

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- Part a) 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
- Part b) 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.
- Part c) Where pollarding or crown reduction pruning has occurred previously, then the removal of crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.

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

Advisory:

- The optimum time for significant pruning of oak trees is during the late spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed should only be undertaken during this period.
- The optimum time for significant pruning of field maple trees is during either the summer (June to August) or mid-winter (late-December to early-February) periods. The work should only be undertaken during these periods.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

