

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: **AW/302/17/T**

Location: **19 Craigweil Lane, Aldwick (front and rear gardens)**

Description of works: Repeat pollarding work to 7 trees (4x sycamore, 3x poplar)

Reasons Given: To preserve good husbandry

Comments On Application:

Note: Tree numbers below (eg.T1) are for the sole purpose of interpreting my comments in respect of this application and have no relationship (intended or otherwise) with those referred to elsewhere, such as may be recorded on the original Tree Preservation Order.

Front garden

Sycamore x2 (T1,T2) *Acer pseudoplatanus* Height: 7m Average Spread: 2.5m Age: Early mature

- Historically maintained as pollard trees. Crudely initiated with a 'topping out' of the main stem. An absence of lateral limb/branch framework and regular removal of epicormic growth below main stem top-height depresses potential for long-term vitality/health of trees.
- Cyclical pollarding throughout the remaining life-span of these trees is necessary to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.
- Visible from surrounding roads and properties.

Rear garden

Sycamore x2 (T3,T4) *Acer pseudoplatanus* Height: 7m Average Spread: 2.5m Age: Early mature

- Historically maintained as pollard trees. Crudely initiated with a 'topping out' of the main stem. An absence of lateral limb/branch framework and regular removal of epicormic growth below main stem top-height, depresses potential for long-term vitality/health of trees.
- Cyclical pollarding throughout the remaining life-span of these trees is necessary to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.
- Visible from neighbouring gardens.

Poplar x3 (T5,T6,T7) *Populus sp.* Height: 5m Average Spread: 2.5m Age: Early mature

- Historically maintained as pollard trees. Initiated at a low-level with a heavy truncation of the main stem and limb framework resulting in large wounds and an absence of small branch framework. Vigorous epicormic growth response below main stem top-height.
- Cyclical pollarding throughout the remaining life-span of these trees is necessary to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.
- Partial ground-level inspection reveals a number of minor defects that cumulatively are notable.
- Visible from neighbouring gardens.

Conclusions:

- T1, T2, T3, T4 - There is insufficient extension of new growth since the last major pruning operation, so repeat pollarding at this time would be too early in the management cycle and likely have a negative effect on their long-term vitality.
- T5, T6, T7 - Repeat pollarding is becoming necessary to achieve good husbandry.

Recommendations:

- REFUSE proposed work to items T1, T2, T3, T4
- GRANT CONSENT for proposed work to items T5, T6, T7 subject to the condition below.

Condition: Remove small branches back to obvious established 'knuckles'.

Reason: In order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery in the interests of amenity.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team