

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: AW/306/19/T

Location: White Cottage, 1 Gossamer Lane, Aldwick, PO21 3AT

Description of works: Reduce height by 1-2m and pollard by approx. 2m to previous pollard points 1no. sycamore tree

Reasons Given: To exercise 'right to light'.

Comments on Application:

Sycamore (TPO ref. T306) / *Acer pseudoplatanus* Approx. height: 10m Average spread: 4m Age class: Mature

- This tree was viewed from outside of the property boundary. Outwardly and from a distance it appears to be in a fine physiological condition.
- It is prominent at the front of the property and can be clearly seen from numerous residential dwellings and to users of busy public highway (footway and carriageway).
- A pollarded tree but crudely initiated with a 'topping out' of the numerous upright stems. Despite that, if it remains healthy will present a uniform and attractive crown profile when in leaf.
- The applicant proposes crown reduction to satisfy a 'right to light' although this is neither established or relevant as the tree is located to the north of the applicant's dwelling and so there is unlikely to be any significant light occlusion.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining life-span of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce its overall height and spread with a view to restricting its 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) 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.
- Part d) The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during either the summer (June to August) or mid-winter (late-December to early-February) periods. The work must only be undertaken during these periods.

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

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

