

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: **AW/327/20/T**

Location: **19 Craigweil Lane, Aldwick, PO21 4AN**

Description of works: **Re-pollard to previous points 4no. sycamore trees (T1, T2, T3 & T4) and 3no. poplar trees (T5, T6 & T7).**

Reason given: Necessary to achieve good husbandry

Comments on application:

Front garden

Sycamore x2 (T1, T2) *Acer pseudoplatanus* Height: 5-10m Radial spread: 0-5m 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 epicormic growth below main stem top-height depresses long-term vitality/health potential.
- Cyclical pollarding throughout the remaining lifespan 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: 5-10m Radial spread: 0-5m 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 epicormic growth below main stem top-height depresses potential long-term vitality/health potential.
- Cyclical pollarding throughout the remaining lifespan 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: 5-10m Radial spread: 0-5m 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.
- Cyclical pollarding throughout the remaining lifespan of these trees is necessary to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.
- Past ground-level inspection (2018) revealed a few minor defects that cumulatively were notable and persistent.
- Visible from neighbouring gardens.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce the trees overall height and spread with a view to restricting their 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.

Recommendation:

- 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.

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 long-term vitality of trees (T1 – T4 inclusive) 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 should only be undertaken during these periods.
- The long-term vitality of trees (T5 – T7 inclusive) is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the mid-winter (late-December to early-February) period. The work should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

