

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: AW/32/17/T

Location: 25 Wychwood Close, Aldwick

Description of works: Reduce crown of 1 No Sycamore tree by 3m in height and 3m in spread

Reasons Given: Improve light and sun percolation to the property

Comments:

Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* Height: 20m Avge Spread: 7m Age: Mature

- This tree has been topped out in the past and this application seeks to roughly repeat this exercise.
- The tree is healthy and vigorous and well able to withstand such a topping and lopping exercise and will readily respond to same.

Conclusions:

- Whilst I can support the repeat pruning of this tree I believe that the amounts stated are excessive and contrary to BS3998 recommendations and will exceed the previous pruning points which would be harmful to the ongoing health and vitality of the tree and also undermine the visual amenity value.

Recommendations:

I recommend **REFUSAL** for the 3m height reduction and 3m spread reduction on this tree and suggest they re-apply for the following:-

- Reduce crown height by a maximum of 2m making no cuts of 75mm diameter or over and not below the height of the previous heavy pruning cuts.
- Reduce the lateral branch spread by a maximum of 2m making no cuts of 75mm diameter or over and not to be beyond the previous pruning points.
- It is also noted that this tree is on another persons land so any approval would be in **principle ONLY** and does not give the applicant the right to enter onto the land or access the tree without first obtaining the permission of the trees owner.

Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- 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
- 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.

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*

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist