

Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: AW/332/17/T

Location: 223 Manor Way Aldwick Bay Estate Aldwick

Description of works: Crown Reduction of 1No. Horse Chestnut by 1.5m & Crown thin by 15% with no cuts over 100mm.

Reasons Given: To maintain tree in proportion with its surroundings

Comments on Application:

Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* Height: Approx. 12m Average spread: 6m Age: Early-mature

- This is a large ornamental tree of high amenity value; being located roadside at the property frontage and highly visible to residents and visitors accessing the estate and from nearby properties – it is a significant arboricultural feature.
- It appears to be in a fine physiological state (unusual for its type) and structurally sound. It has an attractive outer crown profile but is determined to be of moderate form generally, having undergone heavy crown reduction work in the past. This work has encouraged the development of; right-angled limbs which may conceal pockets of decay, crossing branches and progressively heavy branches tending vertical from truncated main scaffold limbs.

Conclusions:

- The light extent of overall crown reduction and removal of branches as proposed (<100mm diameter); is appropriate to reduce crown congestion and reduce the risk of individual branch failure.
- The work proposed is justified and if undertaken to a high standard will not incur a noteworthy loss of amenity value to the surrounding area.
- The long-term vitality of this tree and key ornamental attribute (flowering) are best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed is undertaken during either the mid-summer (mid-June to mid-September) or mid-winter periods.

Recommendations:

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

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.
- Pruning work such as proposed may only be undertaken during either the mid-summer (mid-June to mid-September) or mid-winter periods.

Reasons: In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team