

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin
Planning Application Ref: **AW/340/20/T**
Location: **6 West Drive, Aldwick, PO21 4JY**
Description of works: **1no. Canadian sycamore tree - reduce height to approx. 9-10m and spread 7m and Crown thin by 15%.**
Reasons given: None provided

Comments on Application:

Field maple (x2?) / *Acer campestre* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from distance (roadside, West Drive) this appears to be more than one and/or multi-stemmed tree(s) and in a fine physiological state. There is an evident history of past crown reduction pruning.
- Originally made the subject of an Order to ensure a green buffer between developments, this is an important constituent of that landscape feature although individually of limited visibility to the public.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of these trees, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.

Conclusions:

- The tree work proposed in the application is justified on arboricultural grounds.
- 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) Where pollarding or crown reduction pruning has occurred previously, then 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 tree's 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

Informative:

- The long-term vitality of these trees 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.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

