

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: AW/360/20/T

Location: 27 The Drive, Aldwick, Bognor Regis, PO21 4DU

Description of works: Fell 1no. Eucalyptus tree

Reasons given: i) Developing risk of damage to property ii) Outgrown its location

Comments on Application:

Eucalyptus / *Eucalyptus sp.* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Semi mature

- I have considered this application by means of a desktop review, using the information and plans submitted as well as online resources. Pre-application advice was provided during site meeting of 17th December 2020.
- Whilst visually impressive this tree has fast outgrown its situation and had already been approved for repeat crown reduction pruning to restrict its dimensions. Such work on large, fast growing tree-types becomes a long-term and high frequency maintenance regime. The public amenity provided should be sufficient to justify such a commitment.
- The surrounding garden and adjacent properties are well-stocked with established trees such that no loss of character will be incurred following this tree's removal and opportunity exists to introduce a new ornamental tree, providing seasonal visual interest to the street scene.
- There exists a foreseeable risk of progressive damage to hard surfacing around the tree (including footpath to front door) and its proximity to a garage is an understandable concern.

Conclusions:

- There will be some loss of public amenity on completion of the proposed work, but this is outweighed by the long-term potential for property damage arising from the tree's continued presence and disproportionate level of commitment required to curtail its growth potential.
- An opportunity exists to condition a replacement tree with high ornamental value and in greater harmony with the surroundings.

Recommendation:

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

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- Once the tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 5metres.

This is to be of Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the *Eucalyptus* tree.

The species shall be selected from the following: -

Saucer magnolia / *Magnolia soulangeana*

Star magnolia / *Magnolia stellata*

Sweet gum / *Liquidambar styraciflua*

Japanese cherry / *Prunus serrulata* cv

- **Reasons:** To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team