

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley
Reference: AW/408/21/T
Location: 9 Hornbeam Close, Aldwick, PO21 4AH
Proposal: Crown reduction of 1no. sycamore tree to height 17m and spread 6.5m
Reasons given: Restricts light and too big for a small garden. Fear of damage from falling branches

Comments on Application:

Sycamore / *Acer pseudoplatanus* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance (roadside) this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary.
- It is visible from surrounding properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway) so has public amenity value.
- Outwardly and from a distance it appears to be in a fine physiological state. It grows at the rear of the property and can be seen from neighbouring dwellings but has only limited visibility from publicly accessible land.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce overall height and spread with a view to restricting its 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** is granted subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

Condition 1

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 (c2014) must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.

Reasons: In the interest 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

Advisory:

- The long-term vitality of this tree 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 / Greenspace