

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: AW/70/18/T

Location: 3 Willow Way, Aldwick

Description of works: Reduce crown of 1 No. Horse Chestnut tree to previous pruning points and remove weak broken branches and suckers

Reason Given: To promote healthy growth

Comments on Application:

Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* Height: Approx. 8m Average spread: 3m Age: Early-mature

- Restricted view of tree due to established dense vegetation but condition of upper crown suggests it is in good physiological condition. It has been subject to heavy crown reduction work previously and has responded with vigour, typical for a healthy example of its type.
- This tree is visible from surrounding properties along with a number of other established companion evergreen shrubs/small trees.

Conclusion:

- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining life-span of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.
- If the work is undertaken to a good standard and at the right time; then repeat crown reduction is unlikely to have an adverse effect on its long-term vitality.
- There may be some benefit obtained from the frequent reduction in canopy size by way of combating the proliferation of leaf-miner re-infestation, although this would not ordinarily be sufficient reason to initiate crown reduction or pollarding work.
- There will be a slight and temporary reduction in the tree's amenity value, which is an unavoidable consequence of this necessary work.

Advisory:

- The reported absence of notable flowering is most likely attributable to the crown being frequently reduced which can have the effect of preserving a juvenile state. There is an established cultivar of horse chestnut which is sterile (cv *Baumannii*) that produces flowers but no fruit (conkers).

Recommendations:

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

Conditions To Be Applied To Approved Work:-

- 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.
- The proposed work should only be undertaken during either the mid-summer (mid-June to mid-September) or mid-winter (mid-December to mid-February) periods.

Reason - In order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery, in the interests of tree health and long-term vitality.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team