

Planning Officer: Richard Temple

Planning Application Ref: AW/88/17/T

Location: 14 Margaret Close, Aldwick

Description of works: Hornbeams (T1-T7) – crown-lift by 4m from ground level and clear trees from surrounding buildings (garages & house) by 2.5m.

Reasons Given: To reduce shading and the possibility of windthrow

Comments:

Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* x 7 of Av Ht – 15m Av Sprd - 7m Age – Semi Mature

- I would not have a problem with these trees being crown lifted to 4m on the north side **but not to the south side** as this defeats their purpose as screening and separation and opens up views of garage and building walls for other residents who have registered objections to this aspect being undermined.
- The 4m lift would provide a significant clearance from the garage and building as low branches would be completely removed and it is these that mainly touch or overhang same.
- There is also some confusion in my mind as to exactly what has been applied for here as the summary front sheet lists -
- crown lifting by 4m and 2.5m clearance from buildings – but the application itself lists crown reduction by 3.5m overall and crown lifting over buildings

Conclusions:

- I would see the 4m crown lift all round as excessive and undermining screening and separation value.
- I would see establishing a 2.5m clearance from the garage and buildings as excessive and harmful - undermining these trees collective amenity value.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** of the application as it stands as the works are potentially harmful and not justified and it would not be in the best interests of the group as a whole.
- I would advise that they re-submit seeking the following works :-
 1. Reduce height of trees overall by a maximum of 2m.
 2. Crown lift on the north side ONLY to achieve a ground clearance of 4m.
 3. Any lateral branches that remain on the north side are to be shortened back to achieve a 1m clearance from the garage and house.

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist