

Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: BR/136/18/T

Location: The Maples, 45 Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, PO21 2TQ

Description of works: Surgery to various trees

Reasons Given: Reduction of driveway overhang

Comments on Application:

T1, T2, T3, T4 Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* Age: Semi-mature

- Linear group of pollarded trees. Appear to be in a fine physiological state, of poor form.

T12 Bay *Laurel nobilis* Age: Semi-mature

- Multi-stemmed, tight against west boundary fenceline. Appears to be in a fine physiological state, of moderate form.

T19 Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* Age: Early-mature

- Appears to be in a fine physiological state with good form.

T24 Oak *Quercus robur* Age: Early-mature

- Although not comprehensively assessed, appears to be in a fine physiological state, of moderate form.

T26 Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* Age: Early-mature

- Triple stemmed. Appears to be in a fine physiological state, of moderate form.

T29 (T28) Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* Age: Early-mature

- T29 as shown on the submitted plan is a multi-stemmed alder. The nearest sycamore is T28 and the more likely candidate for the work proposed. T28 is a close pairing of sycamore, one of which has evidence of past windthrow. Both stems are infected with *Kretzschmaria deusta*, a significant decay fungi (see advisory comment at the foot of this report).
- The subject trees are surrounded by residential property having been retained during recent development. The majority of these trees appear healthy and form part of the established high canopy locally, although many individuals are discreetly located when viewed from land accessible to the public. As such, while most are of moderate value they are collectively significant and have group amenity value.
- The applicant has submitted a plan prepared by Beechdown Arboriculture Ltd, dated 29/09/2014 in support of the application. I have relied on this map exclusively for the purpose of identifying trees on site by their unique reference number and have ignored the annotated work specification, which differs from that described on the application form. It is the latter work specification I have based my conclusions and recommendations on.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified and/or reasonable and will not incur a noteworthy loss of visual amenity to the surrounding area.

Recommendations:

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

Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- 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
- 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.
- **(T1, T2, T3, T4)** - 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 trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

Advisory

- T28 Sycamore (x2) – This decay event appears to be significant and may require felling of both stems. The applicant is advised to consider re-submitting an application that includes this work proposal, which I would recommend for approval.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team