

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: BR/235/20/T

Location: 7 Countland Court, 5 Marine Parade, Bognor Regis, PO21 2LT

Description of works: 2No. sycamore trees reduce by 2m on circumference to leave 1m and to crown clean. 6No. sycamore trees to reduce by 2m on southside to leave 1m

Reasons given: 1. To limit deterioration from coastal winds 2. Mess over driveway

Comments on Application:

Note: Tree numbers below (eg.T1) are for the sole purpose of interpreting this application (no tree reference numbers were provided) and have no relationship (intended or otherwise) with those referred to elsewhere, such as may be recorded on the original Tree Preservation Order.

T1-T10 incl.

6x lime / *Tilia* sp. & 4x sycamore / *Acer pseudoplatanus* Height: 5-10m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

T11 & T12 Sycamore / *Acer pseudoplatanus*

Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- There are irregularities with the information/plan submitted in support of this application, such that we have grounds to refuse the application. The following unsatisfactory details were provided:
 - Sketch plan showing position of two sycamore on east side of Marine Parade Road, where none exist. There are two obvious individual sycamore to the west of Marine Parade Road in the same vicinity, it is assumed those are the subjects. It should be noted at this point that the northern tree grows from within the curtilage of 37 Aldwick Road (my reference T12). The southern tree appears to grow from within Marine Parade Road (private) and assumed to be under group management (my reference T11).
 - T1-T10 is a linear group of similarly managed (crude pollards) trees, running east-west in the rear gardens of Anton Cottages. There appear to be 6 individual lime and 4 sycamore, so it is not clear which trees are the subject of the application.
- Work proposed to items in group T1-T10 are acceptable and I consider T11 & T12 to be at risk of inappropriate management; so in the interest of expediency I have made assumptions within my report that I hope will both facilitate reasonable works and inform any future application.

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- **T1-T10 incl.**
 - These trees are not the subject of any Tree Preservation Order but are growing within the Aldwick Road, Bognor Regis Conservation Area and of sufficient size (stem diameter at 1.0m ht. >75mm) to enjoy Statutory Protection. As such, we must consider this element of the application as a Sect. 211 Notice (Notice of intent to undertake works to a tree in Conservation Area).
 - Although the quantity/species of tree in the proposal are unreliable, I do not object to the work specification or consider that inappropriate for the entire group.
 - **T11 & T12**
 - Both trees appear to be outwardly healthy and stable. Their form is typical of coastal sycamore; effectively wind-pruned and somewhat erratic although having adapted well to that influence. Interference with the established limb and branch framework of such trees can disrupt their evolved defences leading to crown decline. In the absence of significant structural defect and/or disease which demands remedial pruning, such work is not recommended.
 - They are highly visible from surrounding properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, they have public amenity value.
 - The work specification (reduction of circumference) is not recognised within British Standard (BS3998:2010) Tree work – Recommendations and is not possible to satisfactorily interpret from site. A *crown reduction* proposal must accurately describe the height and spread (metres) remaining on all aspects, post-pruning.

- An existing Tree Preservation Order (TPO/BR/1/99) includes T11 as a subject.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

T1-T10 incl.

- I am satisfied that the work proposed is justified and will not result in character of the surrounding area being diminished. I raise **No Objection** to the works that have been applied for and see no reason to make an individual Tree Preservation Order to better control their management.

T11 & T12

- I am unable to concur with the reasons stated as being sufficient to justify the proposed work.
- The trees are a significant feature in the local landscape and appear to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of their landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

T11 - I recommend **REFUSAL**.

T12 - I **recommend the making of a Tree Preservation Order** to preserve this tree's place in the landscape and better control future management.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team