

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: EP/113/19/T

Location: 24 Mill Pond Way, East Preston, BN16 1TG

Description of works: Crown Reduction by 3m and Crown Thin by 30% to 1no. sycamore tree. Crown Reduction by 2.5m and Crown Thin by 20% to 1no. Norway maple Crimson King tree

Reasons Given: To clear building gutters and roof, and to keep at a reasonable size

Comments on Application:

T1 Sycamore / *Acer pseudoplatanus* Approx. height: 12m Average spread: 3m Age class: Early mature

T2 Norway maple, purple-leaved / *Acer platanoides* cv. Approx. height: 10m Average spread: 2.5m Age class: Early mature

- Both trees appear generally stable and in fair physiological condition at this time. They have a history of past crown reduction work and have grown-on well.
- Both trees have sustained mechanical damage at low level. T1 displays numerous scars around its main stem having been deliberately hacked with a heavy bladed instrument in the past. T2 has sustained a large, irregular wound from its base to approximately 1m height.
- They grow at the side of the property and by virtue of their height can be seen from surrounding properties, commercial premises and public highway – as such they have some public amenity value.

Conclusions:

- On this occasion, I cannot say the proposal to reduce its overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority as I have not been able to retrieve a past permission for such an operation.
- The work proposed is necessary to mitigate a developing risk of structural failure in both trees and with adequate regrowth since the last operation to reduce their crowns – is therefore justified on arboricultural grounds.
- 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.

Recommendations:

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

Conditions To Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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.
- 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 long-term vitality of these trees 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 must only be undertaken during these periods.

Reasons: In the interests of the trees 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*

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team