

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: FG/63/21/T

Location: 1 Regency Court, Ferring Street, Ferring, BN12 5HP

Description of works: Various works to 2 no. sycamore trees numbered T1 and T2 on the sketch plan

Reasons given: 1. Excessive shading 2. To preserve amenity value

Comments on Application:

T1 & T2 Sycamore / *Acer pseudoplatanus* Height: 5-10m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from distance (roadside) both trees appear generally stable and in fine physiological condition; assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary. The tree's stem bases are partially concealed from view.
- They grow at the front of the property and are useful components of the street scene, contributing to the verdant character of the area.
- Both trees have previously been pollarded. T2 appears comprised of two individual trees, although the possibility of raised soil levels obscuring a stem union could not be ruled out. In any event, it is clear those sycamore are the intended subject of this application.
- An overall crown reduction back to previous pruning cuts (as proposed) is in effect a re-pollarding operation. It will also effectively achieve adequate overhead clearance on all aspects.
- The ivy is not protected by the Tree Preservation Order and removal of deadwood is an exception from the normal application process – so both elements can be addressed any time and without notification to the local planning authority.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce overall height and spread with a view to restricting their growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- 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.

Recommendation:

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

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- Part a) 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
- Part b) 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.
- Part c) 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.

- See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter

Advisory:

- 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 should only be undertaken during these periods.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team