

Planning Officer: Richard Temple

Planning Application Ref: FP/168/17/T

Location : 2 The Midway, Felpham

Description of works: Crown thin 1 No Sycamore by 15% & raise crown by 5.5m

Applicants Reasons : Low branching over footpath and blocking out light

Comments On Application:

T 1 – Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* Height = 10m Avge spread = 5m Age = Mature

- A healthy maturing tree that has been heavily topped out in the past and recovered a full crown.
- Sound and healthy and makes an impact in the landscape.
- Pedestrian passage is hindered by the lower canopy overhang.

Conclusions:

- The request to crown thin by 15% will achieve nothing as the tree will respond by putting back twice as many branches to fill in the space within one growing season – but if they want to do it then fine as it will not damage the health and vitality of this tree.
- As the primary issue is pedestrian passage and not hindering vehicle passage 5.5m ground clearance is excessive.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **APPROVAL** for the crown thinning works as listed in the application.
- I recommend **REFUSAL** for the crown raising to 5.5m :-

ADVISORY:

Suggest they come back in seeking a maximum of 4m ground clearance – with no cuts over 100mm diameter being made in the process.

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist