

Planning Officer: Hannah Kersley

Planning Application Ref: FP/199/21/T

Location: Land to rear of Flats 1-5, 12 Limmer Lane, Felpham

Description of works: Crown reduction of 1no. sycamore tree to height 18m and spread 10m

Reasons given: Fear of falling branches

Comments on Application:

Sycamore / *Acer pseudoplatanus* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance (roadside) this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary.
- It has previously been the subject of crown reduction pruning and displays 2-4metres of growth from the established 'knuckles'. The finished dimensions of the tree (post-pruning) allow for those knuckles to remain intact across the crown.
- It is visible from surrounding properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, it has amenity value and contributes to the character of the area.
- Whilst no evidence of the tree being in hazardous condition is provided; repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds. If undertaken to a high standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the tree's long-term vitality and visual amenity.
- 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.

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 tree's 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 this tree 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.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

