

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: FP/233/17/T (a resubmission following FP/168)

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 4m ground clearance will adequately clear above the footway.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **APPROVAL** for the crown thinning works as listed in the application.
- I recommend **APPROVAL** for the crown raising to achieve a maximum of 4m ground clearance and with no cuts over 100mm diameter being formed in the process i.e. if the branch is larger than this then it must be left and only the smaller diameter sides shoots removed from it to the 4m height above ground.

Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- 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.

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.*

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist