

Planning Officer: Richard Sherman

Planning Application Ref: FP/24/21/T

Location: 19 Summerhill Drive, Felpham, PO22 6AL

Description of works: Reduction lateral spread to 1no. *Liquidambar* Tree to South and East to 5-5.5m

Reasons given: To provide clearance over house roof

Comments on Application:

Sweet gum / *Liquidambar styraciflua* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from distance (roadside) this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state (and assumed to be so in the absence of any information/evidence provided to the contrary). It displays excellent form and is prominent, as such it has high public amenity value.
- Branch clearance from the building appears adequate although maintenance of the same could be inhibited, so some work to achieve long-term clearance is reasonable. This could be achieved with the careful and selective reduction/removal of branches without applying crown reduction to the entire south/east aspects.

Conclusion:

- The reasons for the work proposal are entirely reasonable although for a tree of such amenity value a higher specification is required, to ensure that whoever undertakes the work will not inadvertently prune more than is necessary to achieve adequate clearance.

Recommendations:

- As it stands, I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.
- **I would like the applicant to be invited to agree to a revised proposal for lesser works** (such as described below) as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay. Such work would satisfy the reasons given whilst removing potential for diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:
- *Remove/reduce secondary and tertiary branches as necessary, to achieve a maximum of 1m clearance from adjacent structures, with no pruning wound to exceed 75mm diameter.*

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- If the applicant is prepared to re-submit in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL 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) No pruning wound will exceed 75mm diameter, preserving the main limb and branch framework.

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 applicant declares residential status at a property different to that where the above tree is located and does not confirm their ownership of same or claim agent status, therefore we are obliged to advise that any consent granted by the Local Planning Authority does not by association permit a 3rd party to undertake the proposed work without first seeking permission from the tree owner.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

