

Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: M/142/17/T

Location: Manor House, 1 Sea Lane, Middleton on Sea

Description of works: Reduce branches of 2x sycamore trees overhanging the highway by 3m to property boundary

Reasons Given: Potential obstructive hazard to high-sided vehicles

Comments on Application:

Sycamore (x2)	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Height: 12m	Spread: 3.5m	Age: Early mature
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- Both trees of moderate vigour and vitality (as evidenced by weak shoot extension and low crown density), with approximate height and average radial crown spread of 12m and 3.5m respectively. Previously 'lopped and topped' at 4m height and with a drawn-up asymmetric form.
- They are two of only a few remaining trees within TPO Group 1 and now stand isolated together at the middle of the property's roadside northern boundary, as such they are distinct and clearly visible to the public but have low aesthetic value.
- Overhead carriageway clearance is borderline adequate but will become obstructive if left unchecked. The extent of reduction work proposed for all intents and purposes involves removal of limbs that represent the vast majority of lateral growth and back to the parent stem.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed exceeds that which is necessary, however, there are a number of structural anomalies within both trees, namely a large open cavity at the main stem terminus and limb contortion originating from same. Were these individual trees to be of fine form and condition then the work proposed would be excessive and that I could not support.
- Due to their moderate overall condition and form, subsequent low amenity value and impressive background of maturing yew - these sycamore trees cannot be considered a long-term proposition and so rather than seek to influence their management with advisory comment I feel obliged to support the application.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team