

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: M/78/20/T

Location: 12 West Close, Middleton-On-Sea, PO22 7RP

Description of works: Removal of lowest branch to north west of tree on 1No. Sycamore (T1)

Reasons given: 1. Excessive shade over neighbour's garden 2. Risk of damage to neighbour's shed in windy conditions

Comments on Application:

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

- Outwardly and from a distance this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state, with a relatively unmodified crown and attractive profile. It grows at the rear of the property and can be seen from neighbouring dwellings but has only limited visibility from publicly accessible land.
- Low encroachment of branches into neighbouring property is likely to become problematic and constitute 'actionable nuisance' if left unattended, although is not obviously so at this time. Those branches emanate from one obvious limb that arises from a major stem – it is the limb to be removed in entirety.

Conclusions:

- The work is justified on arboricultural grounds as it seeks to address a developing nuisance and should provide a long-term solution without detriment to visual amenity.
- Although a relatively large wound is to be created; that remains within tolerable limits described in British Standard (BS3998:2010) Tree work – Recommendations. If the work is undertaken to a good 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.

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.

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. The work should only be undertaken during these periods.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

