

Recommendation Report for Works to Tree(s) on trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (

REF NO: P/119/14/T

LOCATION: 43 Sea Lane
Pagham

PROPOSAL: Lateral prune of lowest 5-6 branches to facilitate a crown lift of 6m above ground level, crown thin by 20%, remove deadwood & remove diseased branches to 1 No Sycamore tree

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above
SITE AREA	N/A
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT DENSITY (NET)	N/A
TOPOGRAPHY	Predominantly flat
TREES	The Sycamore tree the subject of this application.
BOUNDARY TREATMENT	Front is open to the highway, close boarded fencing to side boundaries approximately 1.8m in height.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	Detached chalet style property with brick on lower level and cream weatherboarding, wooden shiplap on front gable, tiled roof with brown window frames.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	Residential road comprising detached chalet style properties, many of which have been extended with side dormers.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

None

REPRESENTATIONS

Representations received:

Pagham Parish Council

No objection

Comments on Representations received:

None

CONSULTATIONS

Arboriculturist

Consultations responses received:

Tree Officer

T1 Species: Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* Height: 11 meters Average Branch Spread: 5.5 meters Crown Condition: fair Form: fair Age Class: early mature Height to First branch: 4 meters

The tree outlined in this application is situated in the area of Pagham. The surrounding landscape has a reasonable mix of mainly young to medium aged/sized trees.

The outlined tree is standing in the front garden of 43 sea lane, abutting the main highway. It is evident that this individual has had previous pruning operations. There is also a tree in the neighbour's garden to the North West. It is clear that some of the historic pruning has been designed to elevate any conflict with neighbouring tree/s. The applicant has stated they desire to crown lift to no more than 6 meters (not exceeding 75 mm in diameter). Given this tree is standing abutting the main highway, the request to crown lift to 6 meters would give the clearance to high sided vehicles using the highway. The applicant has also indicated the desire to thin the crown by no more than 20%. This proposed thinning operation would emulate previous pruning operations and would mean the removal of the new growth back to established pruning points.

The applicant has also applied to remove the entire deadwood mass. This practise does not need approval from the local authority.

I would have no objection to the proposed operations of;

The crown raise of no more than 6 meters - as long as the diameter of the limbs removed does not exceed 75 mm in diameter.

The crown thinning of no more than 20% of the crown mass.

The following conditions are to be adhered to when completing the proposed operations.

Crown Reduction

All side branches to be retained should be at least 1/3rd in diameter of the removed branch. Pruning cuts must be flat and smooth, kept as small as possible by cutting at an optimum angle and should not exceed 100mm in diameter.

Crown Clean

The Crown Clean should consist of deadwood and stub removal where all cuts should be made to the branch collar. Where crossing branches are encountered the weaker branch/branches should be reduced or removed to avoid contact between them. The remaining branch/branches should be shortened as appropriate to relieve 'end weight' and sudden exposure by reducing the leaf bearing branch tips by no more than 30%.

Crown Lift

Branches found within the clearance height having diameters greater than 100mm should be shortened and no more than 15% of the leaf bearing growth of that branch should be removed to facilitate the unobstructed free passage of vehicles and pedestrians.

Comments on Consultation responses:

Tree Officer comments noted

POLICY CONTEXT

Designation applicable to site:

Built Up Area Boundary
Tree Preservation Order 2/91

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

Arun District Local Plan 2003:

PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

POLICY COMMENTARY

The above policies are general and, other than online Planning Policy Guidance under references ID 36-090-20140306 and ID 36-091-20140306, are not specific to trees.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND/OR LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states:

"If it appears to a Local Planning authority that it is expedient in the interest of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees.... they may for that purpose make an order"

The works to the trees are to be judged having regard to amenity.

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is considered that there are no other material considerations to warrant a decision otherwise than in accordance with the Development Plan and/or legislative background.

CONCLUSIONS

The Sycamore tree which is the subject of Tree Preservation Order 2/91 is sited in the front garden abutting the public walkway and of public visual amenity value.

The application seeks for a crown lift of 6m with the removal of deadwood and a crown lift of 20%.
The Tree Officer has inspected the tree and has raised no objection to the proposed works subject to conditions.

It is therefore recommended to approve the application, subject to conditions.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE CONDITIONALLY

1 The works hereby approved to the Sycamore tree shall involve:

The crown raise of no more than 6m as long as the diameter of the limbs removed does not exceed 75mm in diameter.

The crown thinning of no more than 20% of the crown mass.

Crown Reduction

All side branches to be retained should be at least 1/3rd in diameter of the removed branch. Pruning cuts must be flat and smooth, kept as small as possible by cutting at an optimum angle and should not exceed 100mm in diameter.

Crown Clean

The Crown Clean should consist of deadwood and stub removal where all cuts should be made to the branch collar. Where crossing branches are encountered the weaker branch/branches should be reduced or removed to avoid contact between them. The remaining branch/branches should be shortened as appropriate to relieve 'end weight' and sudden exposure by reducing the leaf bearing branch tips by no more than 30%.

Crown Lift

Branches found within the clearance height having diameters greater than 100mm should be shortened and no more than 15% of the leaf bearing growth of that branch should be removed to facilitate the unobstructed free passage of vehicles and pedestrians.

Reason: In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

- 2 The work hereby approved shall be undertaken under the supervision of the Local Planning Authority who shall be notified in writing, not less than 7 days before the work commences.

Reason: In order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery in the interests of amenity.

- 3 The burning of materials obtained by site clearance or from any other source shall not take place within 6 metres of the furthest extent of the canopy of any tree or group of trees to be retained on the site or on land adjoining.

Reason: To protect trees and vegetation from fire damage in the interests of the visual amenities of the locality.

- 4 **INFORMATIVE:** The applicant should note that under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, with only a few exceptions, it is an offence for any person to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild birds while the nest is in use or being built. Birds nest between March and September and therefore removal of dense bushes, ivy or trees or parts of trees etc. during this period could lead to an offence under the act.

- 5 **INFORMATIVE:** This notice does not give authority to destroy or damage a bat roost or disturb a bat. Bat species are protected under Section 39 of the 1994 Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations (as amended), the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) and the 2000 Countryside and Rights of Way Act. It is illegal to damage or destroy any bat roost, whether occupied or not, or disturb or harm a bat. If you are aware that bats roost in a tree(s) for which work is planned, you should take further advice from Natural England (via the Bat Conservation Trust on 0845 1300228) or an ecological consultant before you start. If bats are discovered during the work, you must stop immediately and contact Natural England before continuing.