

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: P/78/21/T

Location: 43 Sea Lane, Pagham, PO21 4UW

Description of works: Various works to 1no. sycamore tree

Reasons given: 1. Balance crown 2. Safe clearance from building 3. Increase sunlight to garden 4. Reduce honeydew deposits

Comments on Application:

Sycamore / *Acer pseudoplatanus* 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 has received extensive crown lift (low branch reduction/removal) pruning in the past. It exhibits a relatively unmodified and attractive upper crown profile, despite its exposure to coastal winds. It grows at the front of the property and is visible from surrounding properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, it has public amenity value.

Conclusions:

- Although I do not find sufficient arboricultural justification for the entire work proposal, it is well-intentioned and there is clearly scope to improve conditions for the resident(s) with a more sympathetic pruning plan.
- A tighter work specification is required for lesser works, to ensure whoever undertakes the work does not initiate any top-height reduction or excessive clearance around overhead cables (BT) routed through the crown.

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 go some way to addressing their concerns whilst securing existing landscape/amenity value:
 - Reduce/remove epicormic growth to achieve a maximum of 3metres overhead clearance on all aspects.
 - Reduce lateral spread (East aspect of crown only) by no more than 2metres, leaving approximately 5m minimum.
 - Prune small branches (<50mm diameter) to remove direct interference (contact) with overhead cables (BT) routed through the crown.
 - Reduce upper North-tending branch back, to achieve maximum 2metres clearance from building.

- 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.

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

