

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin
Planning Application Ref: WA/65/21/T
Location: Willow Tree Cottages, The Street, Walberton, BN18 0DH
Description of works: Crown reduction 1no. beech tree to height 11m and spread 6m and inner crown to be thinned by 5%, Re-pollard 1no. weeping willow tree
Reasons given: Cyclical maintenance

Comments on Application:

Beech / *Fagus sylvatica* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Mature

Golden weeping willow / *Salix x sepulcralis Chrysocoma* Height: Approx. 5-10m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance (roadside) these trees appear to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary. They grow at the front of the property and can be clearly seen from numerous dwellings and by users of the public highway clearly. They make a valuable if limited contribution to the street-scene.
- Both have undergone significant crown modification, having been the subject of regular reduction/re-pollarding work resulting in a dense, compact form.

Conclusions:

- 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 trees' long-term vitality and visual amenity.
- The proposal to reduce overall height and spread with a view to restricting their growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- There should be no significant loss of public amenity on completion of the proposed works.

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.

Part c) The removal of crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.

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.

Advisory:

- The long-term vitality of these trees is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

