

Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: WA/89/17/TC

Location: 2 Parsons Walk, Walberton

Description of works: Crown reduction of 1x Birch tree by 2m and fell 1x Conifer

Reasons Given: Birch – too tall. Conifer – damaging wall and blocking footway access to building.

Comments on Application:

Silver birch *Betula pendula* Height: 10m Spread: 4m Age: Mature

- Tree occupies a prominent position adjacent the main road through the village centre and can be seen from afar when approaching in either direction.
- To some extent it is a shame that this tree has received modification to its branch framework. Despite this, it retains good overall form as the earlier crown reduction work has been done sympathetically and to a good standard. Repeating this operation will be necessary periodically throughout the trees lifespan to limit the risk of branch failure.

Conifer *Juniperus sp.* Height: 4.5m Spread: 1m Age: Early-mature

- Tree occupies a prominent position and contributes a degree of symmetry to an original garden tree grouping.
- There is a large, progressive area of foliage that is either dead or 'browning off' on the front facing aspect.
- It is beginning to restrict access along the garden path and is growing close to the historic wall, although I saw no evidence of direct damage at this time.

Conclusions:

- If the birch tree is pruned to a high standard (as before) with respect to previous pruning cuts then it will be an entirely reasonable operation to carry out at the correct time of year (Mid-winter or mid-summer: avoid Spring and Autumn).
- The conifer does not make a significant contribution to the character of the local area and there are trees of greater form and stature in close proximity that will become more visible.

Recommendations:

- I raise **No Objection** to the works that have been applied for and see no reason to make a TPO in this instance.

Advisory:

- Remove small branches to just beyond position of past pruning cuts in order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery, in the interests of tree health and long-term vitality.
- The applicant may find it helpful to instruct their contractor to remove/reduce small branches to achieve 5metres overhead clearance above the carriageway and thereby meet obligations to provide safe-passage for high-sided vehicles.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team