

Number of neighbour notification letters sent: 6

Number of site notices: 1

Statutory advertisement: Not applicable.

Number of representations received: 0

Comment	Officer Comment

7 Planning Considerations

7.1 Having regard to the relevant policies of the development plan it is considered that the main issues arising from this application are:

- Whether the degree of pruning works requested would undermine the amenity value of these trees and whether this could also be harmful to their ongoing health and vitality.

7.2 My inspection related specifically to assessing the proposed works rather than generally inspecting the tree's health and condition in any great detail. I visually inspected the tree from ground level and the following report deals with the relevant issues that have been raised on site, in the application form and from my site observations.

7.3 The application relates to a mature Sycamore tree in Sycamore Drive, Hayling Island. The tree is located in the verge of the drive that leads to the properties at the end of the cul-de-sac. The tree possesses unrestricted views from the street scene and contributes well to the public amenity of the area.

The main stem is partially surrounded by plants and shrubs, therefore a full assessment as to it's basal condition could not be made, however there are no clear signs of poor health visible. There is a compression union where the main stem forks into two major scaffold limbs at an approximate height of 1m where there are also signs of mechanical stress and bark bleed. Further up on the scaffold limbs there are signs of previous limb removals, which have occluded well. The crown is bias towards the south and within the canopy there is evidence of previous pruning as well as the presence of some deadwood, however as the tree is currently budding and appears to be displaying what is normal in vigour and vitality.

The application includes the removal of the lowest three branches on the southern sector. This would result in small diameter wounds only that would not cause detriment to the health of the tree and would rebalance the shape of the canopy while also unrestricting the flow of traffic along the drive to the dwellings. The remaining works, to reduce the height by 3.5m and sides by 2.5m-3m as well as a crown lift to a height of 4.5m, would be considerable reasonable cyclical management for a tree of it's size and maturity and would not cause detriment to the health of the tree or to the public amenity value that the tree offers to the street scene. This would also lessen the weight of the canopy, reducing the risk of future mechanical failure at the site of the compression union.

8 Conclusion

Recommend Permission

9 **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Head of Neighbourhood Support be authorised to **GRANT TPO CONSENT** for application APP/17/00373

(A)

(B) for the following reasons/subject to the following conditions

- 1 The tree works for which consent is hereby granted shall not be carried out otherwise than in full accordance with all relevant content of BS 3998 (2010).
Reason: In the interests of tree health and safety.
- 2 The tree pruning/surgery for which consent is hereby granted shall not exceed the following: 1No. Sycamore (twin stem) (T1), remove 3No. lower limbs on south side of main stem, reduce top by 3.5m, reduce sides by 2.5 - 3m as needed to shape, crown Lift to 4.5m. Remove any dead, crossing or epicormic branches as necessary. Subject to TPO 1079.
Reason: To safeguard the health and well being of the tree(s) and its/their importance in the local landscape.
- 3 The tree works for which consent is hereby granted shall be carried out and completed no later than 01/06/18.
Reason: To control the timing of the works