# DELEGATED APPLICATIONS

## ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: **DC/26/1184: 3 Aston Rise Pulborough RH20 2JA.**

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:
Pulborough Parish Council has stated no objection to this proposal.
No additional representations have been received in respect of this application.

ASSESSMENT:
1. The tree subject to this application is a mature Sycamore situated on Council-owned land to the rear of the applicant's property. The tree has historically been managed by way of a high pollard in order to limit its impact on the adjacent dwelling, with these works undertaken on a cyclical basis. The continuation of this management regime is considered appropriate and sustainable.

2. In this instance, however, the applicant seeks to reduce the height of the tree by a further 2 metres below the established pollard points in an effort to extend the interval between future pruning operations. This approach would not accord with current arboricultural best practice. The tree has adapted physiologically to its existing pollard structure, and pruning below the established pollard heads would necessitate the creation of large diameter wounds within older stem tissue. Such wounds are likely to result in a greater potential for dysfunction, decay colonisation and weakly attached epicormic regrowth, thereby increasing future management requirements and potentially compromising the long-term condition of the tree.

3. Whilst the applicant's intention is to reduce the frequency of future pruning operations, it is unlikely that the proposed additional reduction would achieve this objective. Sycamore is a vigorous species with a strong capacity for compensatory growth following pruning. Reducing the tree beyond the established pollard points would be likely to stimulate a more vigorous epicormic response, potentially accelerating regrowth and increasing, rather than decreasing, future management requirements. As such, there is no clear arboricultural justification to suggest that the proposed works would result in a meaningful extension of the pruning cycle.

4. Furthermore, reducing the tree beyond its established pollard framework would result in a heavily truncated appearance and would significantly diminish its visual contribution to the local area, particularly when viewed from the public footpath immediately adjacent to the site.

5. As such, whilst the continued pollarding of the tree at the existing pollard points can be supported, the proposed additional reduction of 2 metres would result in an unnecessary loss of amenity, would not represent good arboricultural practice, and is unlikely to achieve the stated objective of reducing future maintenance requirements and for this reason this part of the application can't been supported.

RECOMMENDATION:
**Grant consent** subject to the conditions below.

CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:

1. TR2 *Time limit, 2 years*
2. TR3 *Treeworks limit (standard)*
2. TR3a *Treeworks limit (bespoke)*
   The tree work to which this consent relates shall be limited to:
   - Re-pollard the tree by trimming branches back to the existing pollard pruning points. **NO reduction below the established pollard heads, including the additional 2m reduction in height proposed within the application, is permitted under this consent.**

   Reason: for the avoidance of doubt.
3. TR4 *Surgery standards*

TINF1 *Note to applicant.*
TINF2 *Wildlife protection.*

**DELEGATED**

Authorising Officer sign……ANBU…….. ***Arboricultural Officer (Strategic Planning).***

Date……28 Oct 26……