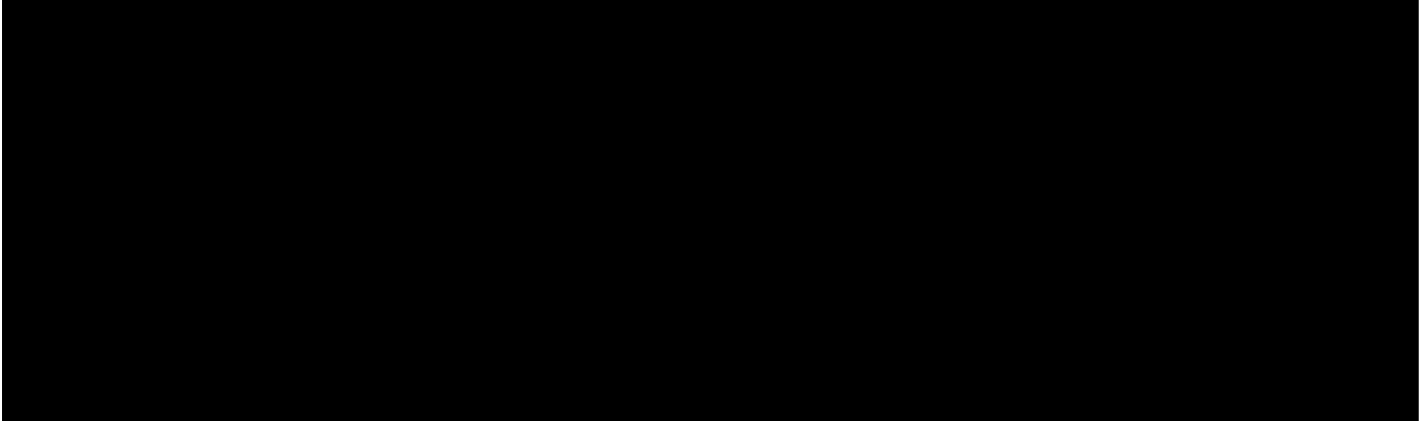




From: Mark Warwick
Sent: 15 May 2019 16:32
To: Amber Willard
Cc: Planning.Responses
Subject: AW/131/19/T

Please find attached my comments/observations for your consideration.

Regards,

Mark

Mark Warwick | Tree Officer, Greenspace, Arun District Council | Location: Bognor Regis Town Hall, Clarence Road, Bognor Regis, West
Sussex, PO21 1LD



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Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: **AW/131/19/T**

Location: **12 Hunters Close, Aldwick Bay Estate, Aldwick, PO21 4HR**

Description of works: **Reduce height by 8m to 1 No. Lombardy poplar tree**

Reasons Given: Safety concern following recent branch failure

Comments on Application:

Lombardy poplar / *Populus nigra Italica* Approx. height: 24m Average spread: 3m Age class: Late mature

- This tree appears to be outwardly healthy and stable with a full and attractive crown profile. No evidence of significant past modification of the crown. Appears to be a fine example of its type.
- It is highly visible from surrounding properties. The high canopy is visually impressive when viewed from adjacent estate roads. As such, it has public amenity value.
- I did not observe the branch failure point or a corresponding gap in the crown profile, although my view was restricted to no more than half of all aspects. In the absence of any evidence to support the reasons given, I have to assume the failure was no more than an unfortunate and not entirely unexpected consequence of inclement weather. There is no clear evidence in the crown of similar events having occurred, which might suggest the tree is especially vulnerable to shedding limbs or large branches.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression. The proposal to reduce the height by 8m could result in harm to the health and vitality of the tree with large pruning wounds being formed.
- I am unable to concur with the reasons stated as being sufficient to justify the work now proposed.
- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team