

Arun District CouncilDate Inspected: 14th March 2014**Planning Officer :** Janice Chapman**Planning Application Ref:** AW/40/14/T**Location :** 54 Pinehurst Park, Aldwick**Description of works:** Reduce 2x Poplars to a height of 5m measured from ground level**Applicants Reasons** The trees represent a threat to life and property**Comment On Application:****Western Balsam Poplars (x 2) *Populus trichocarpa*** Height = 16 to 18m Avge spread = 4m Age = Early Mature

- Large and imposing trees fairly close to the rear of the property
- I can sympathise with the desire to constrain their growth habit and maintain these trees at a lower and more manageable height relative to the house and garden and in turn to reduce the risk of failure and crown break-up.
- They form part of a linear belt of trees of the same species and similar proportions – so what you agree is relevant for one property has to be fair and equitable in relation to all as this will set a precedent.
- It is a shame that these trees have been allowed to achieve these proportions before a request has been received as this substantial amount of pruning will exceed BS3998 recommendations and be contrary to sound arboricultural management practice and would at this severity induce a very significant growth response and an early request no doubt for another pruning operation.

Conclusions :

The applicant has requested reduction down to within 5m of the ground which equates to around 70% reduction.

Whilst I agree with the principle of pruning for the reasons stated in the application I would have to advise that the level of pruning requested in one operation is excessive and contrary to BS3998:2010 recommendations.

I feel that these trees should be reduced in stages so that the growth response is not so dramatic and the tree can adjust to this work before another crown reduction exercise is undertaken which could be between 3 to 5 years depending on the rate of growth.

Recommendation:

I object to the works as described in this application for the reasons stated above and recommend **REFUSAL**.

My recommendation is that they re-submit seeking the following:-

- Reduce and reshape crowns by 8m to leave trees of 9m in height as measured from ground level.



Consultant Arboriculturist