

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: AW/161/21/T

Location: 219 Aldwick Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 3QG

Description of works: Reduce height of 2no. *Leylandii* trees to 6.5m

Reasons given: Shading over garden

Comments on Application:

2x Monterey cypress/Cupressus macrocarpa Height: 5-10m, Radial spread: 0-5m, Age class: Late Mature

- Outwardly these trees appear to be in a fine physiological state despite their advanced years. They are large trees for their type although their crowns have been subject to hard pruning in recent years and visually unimpressive. They spread wide across the boundary from which they grow hard against.
- They are clearly visible from surrounding properties but only in part from publicly accessible land.
- It is stated on the application form (sect.7) “2 trees cut 2.5m off tops and sides”. This is clearly a proposal for whole crown reduction (intended or otherwise), i.e. to apply to both height and lateral spread on all aspects. Whilst this differs from the above Description of works, I am assured from my site meeting with the applicant that their intention is to also remove lateral growth and I submit my report on that basis.

Conclusions:

- These trees require careful management that respects their age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression. If the work is undertaken to a good standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on their long-term vitality and visual amenity.
- The proposal to reduce crown height and spread to maintain reasonable use of garden space is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

Part a) Where whole branches are to be removed and final cuts made close to the trunk or branch union they are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010

Part b) Where branches are to be shortened back the final cuts are to be made at the correct angle shown in BS3998:2010 and adjacent to a live bud or lateral.

Reasons: In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

- See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter

Advisory:

- The long-term vitality of these trees is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late spring to early summer period (May to June). The work should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

