

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner

Planning Application Ref: **AW/185/20/T**

Location: **92 The Fairway, Aldwick, PO21 4EW**

Description of works: **Reduce branch of 1No. Corsican pine to 3.5m**

Reasons given: Developing carriageway obstruction. Risk of limb failure

Comments on Application:

Black pine / <i>Pinus nigra</i> ssp	Height: 15-20m	Spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature
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- Outwardly and from a distance this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state. It has a complex form, with heavy (predominantly south tending) limbs arising from early twin stems.
- There is one prominent low limb growing out over the carriageway, subject of this application.
- The application describes a 7metre limb and proposes a 50% reduction, effectively leaving a 3.5metre long limb. I have measured the limb at 11metres length. This is a significant anomaly in the context of this application. I agree the limb presents a hazard and is at risk of failure if left unattended to, so support the principle of reduction pruning. The life expectancy of this limb is dependant on the amount of foliage it supports relative to its overall mass. The loss of too much foliage (which can not be recovered in good time) would accelerate its decline. It is important to try and prevent wholesale loss of the limb so that we avoid creating a large wound vulnerable to colonisation by harmful decay fungi.
- This is a large, apparently healthy tree which grows at the front of the property and is prominent. It can be seen from numerous properties and is highly visible to traffic accessing/exiting this part of the estate.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- The measurements provided to both describe the limb length and extent of proposed reduction work are incompatible. While I support a 50% reduction, I do not support leaving a 3.5metre long limb, therefore confirmation of the permitted work is required. To that end I attach a photograph showing the approved point of reduction and a suitably worded part of the condition in support.



Fig.1. Position of final cut.

- The work proposed is necessary to remove encroachment of carriageway and mitigate risk of structural failure, so is justified on arboricultural grounds.

Recommendations:

- 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.
- Part c) The subject limb (as shown in the photograph accompanying this report) to be reduced in length, back no further than the edge of the carriageway and in front of the last foliage bearing branch before the limb dog-legs up to the heavy terminal clump of branches. Approximate position of final cut shown as red line on the Fig.1.

Reasons: In the interest of the tree's 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*

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

