

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: **AW/213/18/T**

Location: **7 Willowhale Avenue, Aldwick, PO21 4AU**

Description of works: **Fell 1No. Macrocarpa and crown lift 1No. Macrocarpa to a height of 4.5m**

Reasons Given: T1 – Unbalanced and leaning toward house. T2 – Light occlusion, heavy over shed

Comments on Application:

T1 and T2 Monterey cypress	<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i>	Average height: 12m	Average spread: 5m	Age: Mature
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------

- Both trees appear to be in a fine physiological state, although have distressed form due to past heavy ‘topping’. T1 was previously topped at 5-6m. Contorted growth in response has established in the limb framework and cannot be satisfactorily remediated with pruning. 2 of 3 main stems remain, both of which have areas of decay that while not thoroughly investigated are an obvious cause for some concern. The tree appears stable at ground level but overall has a heavily asymmetric form towards the dwelling.
- T2 is a superior specimen although it too has been topped at around 8metres and has a relatively high number of declining scaffold limbs in the upper crown interior; a not entirely unexpected response to the heavy past topping work.
- Both trees are visible from several neighbouring properties but otherwise exist in a fairly discreet location and not easily visible from publicly accessible land.

Conclusions:

- T1 is of erratic form with compromised structural integrity and an ‘outlier’ to the horseshoe configuration of the other established garden boundary trees.
- Mature cypress trees grow at uneven spacing along all aspects of the rear garden boundary. As such, to condition a replacement planting on this occasion would be an unreasonable imposition. The removal of T1 will not substantially diminish the visual effect provided by this interesting arboricultural feature. That said, it is likely to be desirable to see replacement tree planting for any successive mature tree removals.
- The works proposed in this application will not result in a notable loss of public amenity value.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** is granted for this application, subject to the following condition:
Condition To Be Applied to Approved Work: -
- 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

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team