

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: AW/275/17/T

Location: 1 Raycroft Close, Aldwick

Description of works: Fell 5 No Conifers

Reasons Given: To keep growth habit of the tree under control

Comments:

Ornamental Cypress *Chamaecyparis spp.* Height - 4m Avge Spread - 2m Age - Early-Mature

- A linear belt of screening conifers that have a typical multi-stemmed habit from close to ground level and an upswept and upright form to the crowns.
- Visually significant and highly visible trees in the landscape.
- Some straggly limbs have broken out and will need to be removed.
- They contain a lot of deadwood in their centres which is typical for the species and cleaning this out would not require Council approval.
- There is some low growth overhang of the footpath which will need to be addressed at some stage to allow free passage for pedestrians.

Conclusions:

- The reasons for removal relate to being oversized; messy and taking light.
- At 4m I would not regard them as being oversized.
- I accept that conifers shed their needles and make a mess but this is not justification for removal.
- These trees are to the north side of No 1 and some distance from the main house so I do not accept that they are causing significant shading.
- The works proposed would mean the loss of a line of trees of visual significance in the landscape and I would not see sufficient justification for this.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for the felling of these trees.

ADVISORY:

- The applicant should consider applying to remove the straggly limbs which have broken out of the otherwise tight upright form as well as addressing the low branch overhang of the footpath.
- In addition they may remove any dead branches from within the crown – which is exempt from the requirement to obtain approval from the Council.

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist