

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: **AW/298/20/T**

Location: **55 Christchurch Crescent, Aldwick, PO21 5SJ**

Description of works: **Crown reduction to height 13m and spread 11m 3No. Corsican pine trees**

Reasons given: To relieve weight on branches

Comments on Application:

Note: Tree numbers below (eg.T1) are for the sole purpose of interpreting this application (no tree reference numbers were provided) and have no relationship (intended or otherwise) with those referred to elsewhere, such as may be recorded on the original Tree Preservation Order.

T1 Black pine / <i>Pinus nigra</i> subsp. <i>Maritima</i>	Height: 10-15m	Radial spread: 0-5m	Age class: Mature
T2 Black pine / <i>Pinus nigra</i> subsp. <i>Maritima</i>	Height: 10-15m	Radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature
T3 Black pine / <i>Pinus nigra</i> subsp. <i>Maritima</i>	Height: 10-15m	Radial spread: 0-5m	Age class: Mature

- Three individual trees growing close and in in linear formation. T1 at the S end, T3 at the N end. Collectively form a large group at the southern extremity of a long line of preserved pine trees growing in the rear gardens of property in Christchurch Crescent, Nuffield Close and Pembroke Way.
- Outwardly and from distance they appear to be in a fair physiological state and stable. Upper crowns are unmodified and display form typical of the species, although T1 and T3 are slightly suppressed by the dominant middle tree (T2). Group crown profile is visually impressive and can be seen from numerous properties and by users of the public highway (footway and carriageway).
- Overhead clearance of the property appears adequate and low branches have been reduced (c2016) to improve lateral clearance of dwelling.
- Pine have a poor tolerance of hard pruning and any tip reduction is likely to accelerate decline of those limbs and branches. Reduction pruning should therefore only be undertaken on preserved trees where a risk of failure has been evidenced or is foreseeable.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed has not been justified on arboricultural grounds.
- The trees are important constituents of a significant feature in the local landscape and appear to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the trees' landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Advisory:

- The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require permission from or notification to, the local planning authority.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team