

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin
Planning Application Ref: **AW/29/21/T**
Location: **1 Gossamer Lane, Aldwick, PO21 3AT**
Description of works: **Fell 1no. white poplar tree (T1).**
Reasons given: Health and safety

Comments on Application:

T1 Hybrid black poplar / *Populus x canadensis* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Late-mature

- Outwardly and from distance (roadside) this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state. It has previously been the subject of hard crown reduction pruning (effectively a high-level pollard), last undertaken c2015. It is a large tree highly visible from surrounding properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway) and open space.
- Close inspection of the tree (from ground level) reveals zones of bark disruption on the main stem and a solitary detached fungal bracket suggesting some internal decay. Much of the stem and importantly the crown-break (stem divide) are clad in ivy, which prevented a detailed assessment of both stem and unions.
- The level of information required in support of such a work proposal (written advice and/or diagnostic evidence from an appropriate expert) has not been met, which is disappointing. That said, on this occasion there is enough circumstantial evidence from which to adequately determine the application.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds. In my opinion, what public amenity value this tree has must be balanced against the inherent risk of damage to persons or property presented by this tree and the burden of ongoing management to keep it in a structural state appropriate for the location.
- The removal of such a large tree will impact on the local landscape, so a condition to secure an appropriate replacement is required.

Recommendation:

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

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- Once the tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 5metres.

This is to be of Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the poplar tree.

The species shall be selected from the following: -

Field maple *Acer campestre*

Sweet Gum *Liquidambar styraciflua*

Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*

Silver birch *Betula pendula*

- **Reasons:** To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team