

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: **AW/309/20/T**

Location: **74 Pinehurst Park, Aldwick, PO21 3DZ**

Description of works: **Fell 2No poplar trees (T1 & T2) and remove 1No. dead stump (T3)**

Reasons given: Health and safety (loss of structural integrity)

Comments on Application:

T1 & T2 Lombardy poplar / *Populus nigra Italica* Est. height: 5-10m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

- I have mostly considered this application by means of a desktop review, using the information and plans submitted as well as online resources.
- The applicant has submitted a brief report from a qualified Tree Surgeon in support of the proposal. Significant decay was noted in the main stem of T1 and T2 and there are issues with stability. T3 is a dead poplar stump.
- Although both live trees may have been visually impressive at the time of development, they have been successively lopped in height and much diminished. I note from our records that several companion trees have been removed/failed also since that time. There is a clear gap in the established tree line at this end of Pinehurst Park when viewed from East and West of the property.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is necessary to mitigate risk of structural failure and so justified on arboricultural grounds.
- On completion, this latest proposal ensures the total decline of preserved trees on the rear boundary of the property and corresponding loss of high canopy which had and continues in part to define the character of this estate. As such, there is now a final opportunity to secure a replacement tree of more suitable type that will be both in harmony with the surroundings and provide some environmental and landscape value.

Recommendation:

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

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- Once the tree (T1 or T2) has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or elsewhere in the garden 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 (T1 or T2).

The species shall be selected from the following:-

Field maple *Acer campestre*

Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*

Wild cherry *Prunus avium*

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

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team