

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton
Planning Application Ref: **AW/320/18/T**
Location: **20 Wyde Feld, Bognor Regis, PO21 3DH**
Description of works: **Fell 1no. Monterey cypress tree**
Reasons Given: Safety concerns

Comments on Application:

Monterey cypress / *Cupressus macrocarpa* Height: Approx. 22m Average spread: 6m Age class: Mature

- This is a large tree which appears to possess good vitality. It has an attractive upper crown profile but a clear stem devoid of any limbs to approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ height.
- The applicant has expressed concern about the potential hazard presented by this tree, following advice from a local tree surgeon. I understand this concern, as the unfortunate loss of lower limbs will result in substantial torsional force being applied to what is potentially a compromised main stem structure during episodes of high wind speed.
- We have not been made aware of any detailed investigation of this tree and no evidence or report from a suitably qualified and experienced person has been submitted in support of this application.
- My ground level, non-invasive assessment of the tree suggests that the large areas of exposed decay are a genuine concern and worthy of further detailed investigation, perhaps utilising diagnostic tools/ associated with decay evaluation (resistograph micro-drill, sonic/ electrical impedance tomography).
- There were no obvious signs of pathogen activity or recent ground disturbance/root-plate displacement. The surrounding reaction wood, ratio of apparently sound stem wood to open cavities and healthy appearance of buttress roots *suggest* this tree is structurally sound at this time.

Conclusions:

- Although there is cause for some concern, this tree appears to have adequate structural integrity for its location. No evidence has been provided in support of the application that confirms the work applied for is necessary at this time.
- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree work proposed in the application would have a significant impact on the landscape and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendations:

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

Advisory:

- I recommend the applicant employ the services of an arboricultural consultant to undertake a detailed evaluation of the decay zones within the main stem.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team