

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: AW/324/19/T

Location: Land at rear of 1 Grange Court, Aldwick Grange, Bognor Regis, PO21

Description of works: Fell 1no. Scots pine tree

Reasons Given: Health and safety

Comments on Application:

Black pine / *Pinus nigra Maritima/Austriaca* Height: 20-25m Spread: 0-5m Age class: Mature

- This is one of two pine trees of similar age, height and form. They enjoy root cohesion as companion trees although are under separate management. They are tall and prominent, dominating the skyline from surrounding properties on the estate and visible in part beyond. Both stems are clear of any branches for at least 80% of total height, giving the appearance of being mop-headed although their crowns have substantial 'sail area'.
- While outwardly and from a distance this tree may appear to be in a fine physiological state, close inspection reveals some stem bark disruption/resin bleeding of concern. Also, and of much greater significance is the presence of fungal growth suggesting colonisation of structurally important roots, apparent at the time of my inspection and evidenced further by the applicant's photographs submitted in support of their proposal.
- Of particular concern is the confirmed presence of a pathogenic fungus on structurally important roots. This is likely to have a close association with the decay fungi present on its companion (located in highway verge) and which has colonised the main stem. There is no effective treatment for tree's affected by this fungus (*Dyers mazegill / Phaeolus schweinitzii*).
- 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. That said, I am satisfied from my own site observations and colour photographs provided by the applicant; the tree is likely to be presenting an unacceptable level of risk for its location and its condition will deteriorate.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is necessary to mitigate proven risk of catastrophic structural failure and so is justified on arboricultural grounds.
- This is a high-profile specimen tree of significant public and visual amenity, the loss of which will be keenly felt by residents and visitors alike. A suitable replacement tree will need to be planted that ultimately can achieve similar age and stature to the black pine.

Recommendations:

- 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 4metres.

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 black pine tree.

The species shall be selected from the following:-

Black pine *Pinus nigra Austriaca* or *Maritima*

Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*

Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*

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

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team