

Planning Officer: Richard Temple

Planning Application Ref: AW/33/17/T

Location: Pumping Station, r/o 19-21 Kingsway, Aldwick

Description of works: Fell 3 No Poplars

Reasons Given: To appease an anonymous neighbour who has repeatedly complained about them to the Water Board

Comments:

Hybrid Poplars *Populus spp.* Height: 24m Avge Spread: 6m Age: Early Mature

- These trees appear sound and healthy and in good overall order.
- They provide valuable screening and separation at the cul de sac that is Larchfield Close.
- Apparently the Water Board have had numerous complaints from an unnamed neighbour that relates to excessive shading and fears that the trees will fall and damage their property.

Conclusions:

- Whilst I can understand apprehension as regards the safety of these trees I saw no evidence that would lead me to conclude that they are currently unsafe.
- They actually have a fairly tight outline for Poplars and are not excessively spreading trees so their shading ability will not be excessive or unacceptable in my view.
- These trees are healthy and provide valuable amenity which is the reason why they were TPO'd in the first instance.
- I see no justification for their removal at this time – the owners have recourse to come back in for pruning if they wish as this would be a more acceptable action if control of their growth habit is an issue. However, once you start to prune Poplars then you must continue this on a cyclic pruning program otherwise they will become dangerous with weak attachments of re-growth to old pruning points.

Recommendations:

I recommend **REFUSAL** for the felling of these trees as it is not justified.

I would not recommend an alternative pruning option either because this will generate a major growth response and a maintenance liability for the life of the trees.



Consultant Arboriculturist