

**Planning Officer:** Amber Willard

**Planning Application Ref:** **AW/346/17/T**

**Location:** **1 Shipfield, Aldwick**

**Description of works:** Fell 1No. Cyprus Tree and replant with smaller deciduous tree

**Reasons Given:** Continual damage to pavement and close proximity of roots to main drains

**Comments on Application:**

**Monterey cypress**      *Cupressus macrocarpa*      Height: Approx. 12m      Average Spread: 6m      Age: Mature

- This tree is a fine example of its type, being of apparent good health and structurally sound. It is relatively free of the branch dieback associated with fungal infection (*Seiridium cardinale*) commonly encountered with specimens of this age and displays a full and healthy crown.
- It occupies a prominent position within the cul-de-sac and by virtue of its size and age is an established focal point for local residents. From the nearest through road visibility is limited, although it is of a size which thereby contributes to the high tree cover locally.
- The adjacent footway and path are progressively heaved due to the gradual expansion of structurally important roots, but remain fit for purpose. If the uneven surfaces are or become intolerable, then reasonable and practical solutions are available that would secure long term improvement to same and without detriment to the trees health and stability.
- Although proximity of tree roots to drains can be a concern, no evidence has been submitted that would implicate this tree in a damage event or suggest it has a foreseeable risk of doing so.

**Conclusions:**

- The condition and levels of footway and path could be improved without recourse to felling of this tree or incurring unreasonable expense.
- Proximity of roots to underground drains is a frequent occurrence in the built environment and does not as a matter of course result in direct damage to utility apparatus. Even where damage has occurred and tree roots are implicated, then an engineering solution often provides the most efficient and effective outcome.
- This is a fine specimen tree with notable amenity value and there is no arboricultural justification for the work proposed.

**Recommendations:**

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

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team