

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: **AW/348/18/T**

Location: **5 Copthorne Way, Aldwick, PO21 3DY**

Description of works: **Reduce to previous pruning points and height reduction of 4 - 6m to 5 No. Lombardy poplar trees.**

Reasons Given: Considerable regrowth since last major pruning operation

Comments on Application:

5x Lombardy poplar / *Populus nigra Italica* Height: Approx. 12m Average Spread: 2m Age: Early-mature

- This linear grouping of five trees appear outwardly and from a distance to be in a fair physiological state. They have previously (c2008) received significant crown reduction work and have responded with characteristic vigour.
- Historical pruning work has introduced structural weakness at height so that repeat work such as now being proposed will periodically be necessary throughout their lifespan to ensure they remain in a structural condition appropriate for this location.
- These trees are visible from neighbouring property and road and footway network. Accordingly they have some public amenity value although they are of limited visual interest.

Conclusions:

- If the work is undertaken to a good standard, then repeat crown reduction at this time is unlikely to have a negative effect on their long-term vitality.
- They have developed large, ascending and potentially weak limbs/branches that present an unacceptable level of risk for adjacent dwellings.
- The proposal to reduce their overall height and spread with a view to restricting growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Recommendations:

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

Condition - The removal of crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.

Reason - In order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery, in the interests of tree health and long-term vitality.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team