

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: AW/72/17/T

Location: off-site trees to the rear of No 64 Pinehurst Park, Aldwick (2) all current comments in blue typeface

Description of works: 25m crown reduction to 4 No Lombardy Poplars and reduction by 2m to 1 No Ash – now applying for reduction to leave a 5m to 8m trunk with branchwork untouched.

Reasons Given: To reduce in height down to the height of the boundary fence at the rear of garden to make safe

Comments:

4 No Lombardy Poplars Populus nigra 'Italica' Ht – 22m Av Sprd - 4m Age – Early Mature

1 No Common Ash Fraxinus excelsior Ht – 4m Av Sprd - 2m Age – Semi-mature

- The **Ash** tree has been heavily topped out in the past - probably due to being undermined by cavities and decay – it is a poor quality tree of no merit in the landscape.
- The **Lombardy Poplars** form part of a shelterbelt screen of trees that back onto the rear of properties in Parkhurst Park.
- They are tall trees and this can give cause for concern as regards their safety and for this reason consent has been granted (see rear of No 54) along sections of the line for crown reduction down to 5m to 8m tall trunks to stabilise them and give the residents piece of mind. A similar action in this instance would have been favourably received.

Conclusions:

- The level of reduction requested is so severe as to constitute the effective removal of the trees which would not be acceptable given that there has been no investigation undertaken of the bases of the trees to determine whether decay and cavities are present or fungal pathogens exist that might undermine the safety of these trees.
- Without such evidence there is no justification for the works that have been sought.
- The other factor to be considered here is that these trees are not in the ownership of the applicant and therefore the owners approval would be required before any works granted under a TPO application could be acted on.
- **The level of reduction now sought for the Poplars to leave 5m to 8m high trees is acceptable. Similarly the removal of the very poor quality Ash is also acceptable (no replacement required).**

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** of the application as the works are not justified and would mean the total loss of amenity of TPO'd tree of value in the landscape.
- **I now recommend APPROVAL for the works as specified in this current application as the works are justified.**
- HOWEVER, as these trees are not in the applicants ownership they will have to seek the owner of the trees permission before undertaking any of the works which the Council grant approval for in principle.

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist