

Planning Officer: Amber Willard
Planning Application Ref: AW/97/19/T
Location: Braemar Lodge, 2 Willow Way, Aldwick, PO21 4NA
Description of works: Fell 1 No. poplar tree
Reasons Given: Tree in declining health and with structural defects

Comments on Application:

T1 White poplar / *Populus alba* Approx. height: 14m Average spread: 4m Age class: Mature

- The applicant has employed The Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd to assess the tree and provide a report on its condition. This is comprehensive and recommends a reasonable plan of action in response to the findings.
- This is the last of three trees of its type, that all appear to have succumbed to decay. Previous application AW/317/15/T refers to the felling of two poplar. There has been no successful replacement planting – despite a condition to that effect attached to past permission.
- Outwardly and from a distance it appears to be in a fine physiological state although on close inspection it is considered to be structurally unsound. It grows at the rear of the property and can be seen from neighbouring dwellings but has only limited visibility from publicly accessible land.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is necessary to mitigate risk of structural failure and so justified on arboricultural grounds.
- It is now imperative we ensure a replacement tree is planted that will adequately compensate for the loss of canopy.

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 10metres.

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 poplar tree. In the event that tree dies within five years following such planting, the occupier shall replace it with a similar tree in similar position during the next planting season.

The species shall be selected from the following:-

Field maple *Acer campestre*

Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*

Wild cherry *Prunus avium*

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