

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: A/103/19/T

Location: Along north side of East Drive, Angmering, BN16 4JH

Description of works: Fell 5no. Monterey pine trees

Reasons Given: Health and safety

Comments on Application:

T8 (os 26) Monterey pine / <i>Pinus radiata</i>	Approx. height: 14m	Average spread: 5m	Age class: Mature
T9 (os 24) Monterey pine / <i>Pinus radiata</i>	Approx. height: 21m	Average spread: 6m	Age class: Mature
T10 (os 24) Monterey pine / <i>Pinus radiata</i>	Approx. height: 23m	Average spread: 6m	Age class: Mature
T12 (os 22) Monterey pine / <i>Pinus radiata</i>	Approx. height: 24m	Average spread: 8m	Age class: Mature
T13 (os 14) Monterey pine / <i>Pinus radiata</i>	Approx. height: 20m	Average spread: 8m	Age class: Mature

- The applicant has employed County Tree Surgeons Ltd as agent, to prepare and submit a tree survey and plan. This is comprehensive and includes a detailed work specification with reasons given for each item. I have considered this report carefully and whilst undertaking my own ground level, non-invasive assessment of those trees. The general thrust of their report is that these trees have reached the end of their safe, useful life expectancy and present an unacceptable level of risk for their location.
- They are all large and imposing trees, prominent at the front of residential property and visible to traffic accessing/exiting this part of the estate.
- They are all by virtue of their size alone important constituents of an established long line of trees which help define the character of the area and represent a significant public amenity (landscape value).
- T08 – This tree appears outwardly to be in a fine physiological state and stable, although not without a structural defect of some concern (compressed twin stem union). It is of *relatively* low amenity value, having been suppressed by dominant companion trees and with strongly asymmetric form is heavily weighted towards residential property.
- T09 – This tree appears outwardly to be in a fair physiological state and stable. Upper crown density is low-moderate although it retains considerable visual amenity and landscape value by virtue of its size alone.
- T10 – This tree appears outwardly to be in a fine physiological state and stable, although the limb and branch framework is much denuded following successive failures and suppression from companion trees. It is of *relatively* low amenity value.
- T12 – This tree appears stable but is clearly in a poor physiological state, with low crown density throughout and a high percentage of dead scaffold limbs and large branches.
- T13 - This tree appears outwardly to be in a fair physiological state and stable. It has like many of its type across the estate had many of its lower branches removed. Crown density is moderate. It has considerable visual amenity and landscape value.

Conclusions:

- T08 – Due to poor form and ongoing justifiable concern for its structural integrity, I would support the removal of this tree as I believe it presents an unacceptable level of risk for its location. There is ample room for an adequate replacement tree in the verge nearby.

- T09 – Most likely in the early stages of terminal decline and certainly not able to undertake crown renewal and/or achieve enhanced vitality. I believe the removal of this tree at this time would be prudent, as the ongoing risk of harm to persons or property will only increase. Removal can be compensated for within a scheme of replacement planting and aftercare.
- T10 – Visually this tree has become irretrievably compromised and can only decline. Removal can be compensated for within a scheme of replacement planting and aftercare.
- T12 – The essential removal of deadwood alone would leave this tree in a visually dramatic state and unable to undertake crown renewal and/or achieve enhanced vitality. Removal can be compensated for within a scheme of replacement planting and aftercare.
- T13 – I believe the removal of this tree at this time, would be premature and result in undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendations:

- As it stands, I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application, as I cannot support the removal of T13 and we cannot approve an application in part.

Advisory:

- I would like to see the applicant agree to an amendment of their proposals (lesser work), by removing the felling proposal for T13.
- If the applicant is prepared to re-submit in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following condition be applied:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- Once the four pine trees have been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then individual replacement trees are to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 4metres.

These must 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.

They are to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the four pine trees.

The species shall be selected from the following:-

Pedunculate oak - *Quercus robur*

Austrian/Corsican pine - *Pinus nigra Austriaca/maritima*

Elm / *Ulmus lutece* or similar species with proven degree of high resistance to DED.

- **Reasons:** To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team