

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: **AW/363/17/TC / (A/73/18/TC)**

Location: **St Margaret's Church, Arundel Road, Angmering**

Description of works: **Fell 45 No. Western Red Cedar trees within the Angmering Conservation Area**
(Reduce to 1 Silver Birch tree by no more than 5m in height & 2m in spread.)

Reasons Given: N/a

Comments on Application:

Western red cedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Approx. Height: Average 16m	Group length: 70m	Age: Early-mature/Mature
Silver birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Height: 9m	Spread: 3m	Age: Mature

- The applicant proposes to remove the entire linear group of western red cedar trees and replant with mixed species native hedgerow.
 - While undoubtedly of some landscape value, these trees are interfering with the reasonable management and attention to/respect of a significant number of graveyard plots.
 - These trees are a significant landscape feature, although they have been subject to severe lopping in the past at almost half their current height. While regrowth has in the main been successful, many individuals require substantive pruning to achieve an acceptable level of risk for their location.
 - Crown reduction work as now required will significantly reduce their aesthetic value and may serve only to accelerate their physiological decline.
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- The applicant proposes a crown reduction by 5m height and 2m spread, of one silver birch tree at the south-east corner of the car park.
 - This is a mature tree which appears to be in a fine physiological state and with an attractive crown profile, despite being multi-stemmed (x3) and having recently been subject to crown reduction work (c2014). It has responded well putting on 1-1.5m of regrowth all over. It appears to be structurally sound.
 - It enjoys a prominent roadside position and therefore has public amenity value.

Conclusions:

- These trees make a notable contribution to the character of the surrounding area but there are no options available that will allow their long-term safe retention in an aesthetically desirable state and maintain group cohesion/landscape value.
- The potential loss of such a group in a single operation is unfortunate, although there is sufficient neighbouring tree cover to provide some early compensation. Together with the proposed replanting of mixed species native hedgerow along this boundary, there should ultimately be no long-term diminution of character in the surrounding area.

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- A reduction of the extent now proposed will irrevocably spoil this tree's appearance and facilitate terminal decline. A satisfactory clearance of the adjacent dwelling can be achieved by carefully pruning back small branches on the tree's eastern aspect.
 - This is a tree of public amenity value that can be satisfactorily managed without recourse to extensive crown reduction work at this time.
 - The proposal to reduce the height and spread by 5m and 2m respectively does not meet the recommendations of BS3998 and would be likely to result in harm to the health and vitality of the tree with large pruning wounds being formed as well as undermining its visual amenity value and impact in the landscape.

Recommendations:

- I raise **No Objection** to the works that have been applied for and see no reason to make a TPO in this instance.
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- I recommend the making of a **TPO** to preserve this trees contribution to the surrounding area and attach a TEMPO form and GIS plan for this purpose.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team