

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: BE/53/18/T

Location: New Era House, Oldlands Way, Bognor Regis

Description of works: Fell 4No. Poplar Trees & Pollard Remaining Poplar Trees To Previous Pruning Points

Reasons Given: Trees are decayed and hazardous / To maintain safety standards

Comments on Application:

Lombardy poplar (x40) *Populus nigra 'Italica'* Average height: 13m Average spread: 1.5m Age: Early-mature

- This is a significant arboricultural feature, comprising 40 distinct trees in linear grouping. They are of variable condition both physiologically and structurally but as a group can be collectively described as in a fair condition.
- The vast majority of individuals have been the subject of lopping work in the past, resulting in abrupt stem truncation at approximately 10m height. Regrowth from this height has on the whole been successful across the group.
- Those trees identified for felling are clearly showing areas of significant stem decay such that their removal has become necessary for safety reasons.
- This tree group is visible from neighbouring premises and from the adjacent main road (class A).

Conclusions:

- Trees of this combined type and pruning history have a propensity to shed large limbs/branches if allowed to grow on unchecked; this clearly presents an unacceptable level of risk for such a location.
- Trees with significant decay are not desirable at this location.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following conditions:
 - 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.
 - Pruning (repeat pollarding) work such as proposed may only be undertaken during either the mid-summer (mid-June to mid-September) or mid-winter periods (Nov-Feb).

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