

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date inspected: 16 June 2022

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley

Reference: BN/59/22/T

Location: Land Southeast of Halliford Drive, Barnham, PO22 0FB

Proposal: 1no. poplar tree (T3) - remove 1 stem overhanging neighbouring property (26 Songthrush Lane) on eastern side of canopy. 1no. poplar tree (T4) - reduce height by approx. 2-3m to leave approx. 12m. 1no. alder tree (T8) fell to ground level

Reason given: Risk management

Comments on Application:

T3 - Grey poplar / *Populus x canescens* Height: 15-20m Spread: 5-10m Age class: Early mature

T4 - 4x Grey poplar / *Populus x canescens* Height: 20-25m Spread: 5-10m Age class: Early mature

T8 - Italian alder / *Alnus cordata* Height: 10-15m Spread: 5-10m Age class: Early mature

Outwardly and from distance (restricted view) these trees appear to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary. Further comments on condition:

T3 – Twin stem tree, one of which leans acutely over private garden. High growth potential = accelerating risk of failure.

T4 – Four separate tree stems forming a broadly cohesive crown. No evidence provided to justify pre-emptive pruning work that would introduce structural weakness across the branch framework at height.

T8 – Heavily suppressed arching stem that presents an unacceptable level of risk for the location.

These are all important constituents of established linear grouping of trees which help define the character of the area and represent a significant public amenity. Purposely retained and protected to complement the recent development.

Conclusions:

The work proposed for items T3 and T8 is justified on arboricultural grounds. T8 does not require a replacement due to the density of the group and difficulty establishing.

T4 is a cluster of highly visible trees which collectively form an impressive group. Safety concern for nearby residents is commendable and it is encouraging the tree owner has instructed a professional arborist to

assess. I would support those trees being comprehensively inspected on a regular basis and any observable defects addressed either under an exception or included for remedial work as part of a future planning application.

Recommendation:

As it stands, I am unable to support this application. **I would like the applicant to be invited to agree to a revised proposal for lesser works by removing T4 from same, as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay.**

If the applicant agrees to the above proposal, then I would be able to recommend **APPROVAL**.

No bespoke conditions required.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer
Neighbourhood Services