

Planning Officer: Simon Davis

Planning Application Ref: BR/258/17/T

Location: Chipley Court, Hawthorn Road, Bognor Regis

Description of works: Fell 1 No Austrian Pine T1 and remove 2 No lower lateral branches on southern side of T2 Austrian Pine and a side reduction of northern crown by 1m to 2.5m.

Reasons Given: They are in close proximity to off-site buildings and roots of T1 have caused significant damage to the driveways

Comments:

T1 Austrian Pine *Pinus nigra 'Austriaca'* Av Ht – 20m Av Sprd - 8m Age – Mature

- A healthy tree that has been topped out in the past giving it a multi-stemmed appearance in the upper crown.
- It makes a significant contribution in the landscape and merits its TPO status.
- Significant disruption of the access drives to adjacent properties has been experienced over a long period of time and a permanent solution is sought to this problem.
- Extensive trenching investigation work has been undertaken to the adjacent drives and this has exposed a massing of root just below the surface which comes from this tree.

T2 Austrian Pine *Pinus nigra 'Austriaca'* Av Ht – 20m Av Sprd - 8m Age – Mature

- A healthy tree that has been topped out in the past giving it a multi-stemmed appearance in the upper crown.
- It makes a significant contribution in the landscape and merits its TPO status.
- Due to competition with other trees the crown has become flattened and grows primarily to the north and south.
- The northern side overhangs the drive to 'The Acorns' and whilst the driveway has suffered only minor lifting of brick setts there is an issue with the needle drop and also cone shedding.

Conclusions:

T1 Austrian Pine *Pinus nigra 'Austriaca'*

- Pruning the tree has been tried before and this has not prevented this problem and to prune a conifer of this sort to the heavy degree necessary to have any real effect would remove all of the live growth and thus kill the tree.
- To remove the volume of roots found just below the surface would have a significant adverse impact on the vigour and vitality of this tree also allowing access to fungal pathogens through large open wounds.
- Under the circumstances I see no alternative but to allow the removal of this tree to abate the severe nuisance being caused– subject to a replacement being planted of a species which has a less vigorous rooting habit.

T2 Austrian Pine *Pinus nigra 'Austriaca'*

- The levels of pruning requested will give a better balance to the crown and also help to abate the nuisance of needle cast and dropping cones.
- None of this work will be to the detriment of the trees visual amenity value or vigour and vitality.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **APPROVAL** for the works as listed in this application.

Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Pruning Works: -

- Where branches are to be shortened back the final cuts are to be made at the correct angle shown in BS3998:2010 and adjacent to a live bud or lateral.

Reasons : In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

- ***See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter.***

I **APPROVE** of the removal and replacement of **T1 Austrian Pine** subject to the following condition:-

Conditions to be applied to the approved felling works:

- Once the Pine tree has been removed and ground out then a replacement tree is to be planted 'in the same place'.
- This is to be of Heavy Standard Nursery Stock proportions (12-14cm girth & 3m to 4m 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 Pine tree.
- The species shall be selected from the following:-
Foxglove Tree - *Paulownia tomentosa*
Dawn Redwood – *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*
Tupelo – *Nyssa sylvatica*

Reasons : To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general and provide for continuity in the landscape.

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist