

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley
Reference: BR/46/22/T
Location: 43B Pevensey Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 5NY
Proposal: Remove 4 lower limbs of 1no. Corsican pine tree
Reason given: Tree unbalanced

Comments on Application:

Black pine / *Pinus nigra* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

- This tree was made subject of a Tree Preservation Order in 2008. Subsequent development of the plot following planning approval (granted December 2019) captured the tree within rear garden of 43B. Dwellings are located at a harmonious distance.
- The tree is visible from surrounding properties and in large part from public highway.
- Outwardly it appears to be in a fair physiological state and stable. Crown density is moderate and shoot extension slightly stunted, although it is not clear what is responsible for those symptoms. I saw no evidence of needle blight or chlorosis and overall the foliage looks healthy with all shoot tips intact.
- Of interest, having considered historic comments from the Council's own engineer (drainage) and developer's project arboriculturist; we know the area is/was susceptible to surface water flooding (2018) and that the tree appeared to be in good physiological and structural condition (2017).

Conclusions:

- The proposed work has not been justified on arboricultural grounds.
- The lower crown profile is asymmetric although this does not detract from the tree's amenity value or present as a nuisance.
- The removal of branches to balance the lower crown profile on all aspects does not meet the requirements in British Standard (BS3998:2010) Tree work – Recommendations. Such a loss in volume of needle-bearing branches would likely be harmful to the long-term health and vitality of the tree.
- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application is likely to result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace