

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe
Planning Application Ref: EP/139/19/T
Location: 5 Kithurst Close, East Preston, BN16 2TQ
Description of works: Fell 1no. pine tree
Reasons given: Health and safety

Comments on Application:

Monterey pine / <i>Pinus radiata</i>	Height: 15-20m	Average spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature
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- This tree has landscape value, being both highly visible from surrounding properties and estate roads. It is a large tree, one of two that are a cohesive pair offering mutual support to one another. Crown density is moderate and there are several *compression forks* low on the main stem. Overall it appears to be in a fair physiological state, stable and presents an attractive crown profile from all aspects.
- Woods Tree Specialists have been employed to assess the tree and make recommendations for its future management. They comment on the tree's condition but have not provided any photographic evidence or specific detail to support their overall risk assessment. More specifically, during my own ground level visual tree assessment I did not observe any obvious crack or 'split up the tree' - the subject of stated concerns.
- It is imposing over the applicant's and neighbouring gardens, being a large tree close to the boundary and with considerable crown volume. That said it is a reasonable distance from main dwellings and appears to be harmonious with its surroundings.
- The branches of this tree type are often heavily laden with large cones. Those which detach from the tree are usually over-ripe (have discarded their winged seed) and attached to an item of deadwood. As such, they can present a considerable hazard especially when falling from great height. I understand that the tree has recently (<24months) had major deadwood removed – the removal of which is an exception from the normal application process.

Conclusions:

- The tree appears outwardly sound and no evidence of structural defect or disease has been provided in support of the application. It provides a significant visual amenity both individually and in support of its companion. It has not been proven to present an unacceptable level of risk for its location, so should be retained.
- The tree work proposed in the application has not been justified on arboricultural grounds.

Recommendations:

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team