

**Planning Officer :** Damian Sullivan

**Planning Application Ref:** EP/51/14/T

**Location :** 5 Kithurst Close, East Preston

**Description of works:** 1 x Pine - Prune branches overhanging neighbouring property to give a 2m lateral clearance from property

**Applicants Reasons** To maintain reasonable distance from property and allay fears of branch failure

**Comments On Application:**

**T1 Monterey Pine** *Pinus radiata* Height = 20m Avge spread = 8m to 10m Age = Mature

- This is a mature tree positioned hard up against the neighbours boundary fence with approx.. 7m of branch overhang and they have constructed a summer house underneath it!
- There is some evidence of recent branch end breakages and it appears that some overhanging branches have already been shortened back in the not too distant past.
- Looking at what has been left there is very little live foliage at the ends of the lowest branches and to reduce them further would leave stubs devoid of foliage which will not regenerate.

**Recommendation:**

I **APPROVE** of these works for safety reasons and recommend that in order to achieve the desired 2m clearance they proceed as follows:-

- Completely remove the two lowest branches from directly above the summer house structure.
- For guidance these are 200mm and 150mm diameter respectively.
- I also recommend removal of all deadwood from the crown and any loosely secured cones.

**Condition To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -**

- *Where whole branches are to be removed final cuts close to the trunk or branch union are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010 and all branches which need to be shortened are to be cut at the correct angle and adjacent to a live bud or lateral as defined and illustrated in BS3998:2010.*
- *Attention is drawn to the fact that some trees could provide suitable habitat for bird nesting (ivy and cavities) and bat roosting (ivy, branch cracks and cavities) and this might at certain times of year influence and possibly restrict the form of management which can be applied. Given the legal constraints imposed by the Habitat Regulations and the Wildlife and Countryside Act and the fact that it is a criminal offence to disturb or destroy nest sites, this may necessitate expert ecological advice being sought before proceeding with these recommendations. As a minimum requirement it will be necessary for the appointed Tree Contractor to climb the trees and verify that there are no birds nesting or bats present in splits; holes and cavities prior to commencement of works.*

**Reasons:-**

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

*Bernie Harverson*

Consultant Arboriculturist