Arun District Council

Date Inspected: 23rd October 2018

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: **FG/164/18/T**

Location: **Land Opposite 15 The Poplars, Ferring, BN12 5QL**

Description of works: **Remove branches from 2No. Austrian Pines which overhang No. 14, 15 & 16 The Poplars and service road.**

Reasons Given: Shedding of small branches, sap exudation onto property, needle drop, faecal deposits from roosting birds

Comments on Application:

Note: Tree numbers below (eg.T1) are for the sole purpose of interpreting this application (no tree reference numbers were provided) and have no relationship (intended or otherwise) with those referred to elsewhere, such as may be recorded on the original Tree Preservation Order.

T1 (south of T2) **Black pine**	*Pinus nigra*	Height: Approx. 12m	Average spread: 6.5m	Age class: Mature
T2 (north of T1) **Black pine**	*Pinus nigra*	Height: Approx. 12m	Average spread: 5.5m	Age class: Mature

- These two trees constitute G2 as described in the original Tree Preservation Order.
- Both possess slightly contorted form, a probable legacy of past companion tree removal - but support full and spreading crowns. They appear to be in a generally fine physiological state and structurally sound.
- The frequent discarding of small branches is typical of such aged examples of its type at exposed coastal locations and not obviously associated with an underlying health condition. The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require permission.
- These are fine examples of their type and visible from many surrounding dwellings and contribute significantly to the high canopy locally; thereby providing a notable visual amenity.
- The work description is open to interpretation. Having met with the applicant, I am able to clarify the agreed proposal as follows:
    - T1 Reduce back branches overhanging property to boundary line.
    - T2 Obvious first cluster of 3 branches on west aspect;
      i) Remove lowest branch back to main stem
      ii) Leave middle branch intact.
      iii) Reduce back highest branch to boundaryline of property (15 The Poplars)

Conclusions:

- Individually and collectively they have high amenity value and are of mature age, so should be subject to careful management.
- I have a degree of sympathy with the adjacent occupants, who bear the brunt of seasonal nuisance from overhanging branches and the subsequent deposition of resinous material onto the property frontage and building fabric.
- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds as it seeks to ensure reasonable maintenance of the property (built structure) and with respect to natural tree form. If undertaken to a high standard, it will not incur a noteworthy loss of amenity value to the surrounding area.
- There will be no significant loss of public amenity on completion of the proposed works.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following condition:

  Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- Where whole branches are to be removed and final cuts made close to the trunk or branch union they are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010

- 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.***

Advisory:

- Where trees are situated on land not owned by the applicant the granting of consent by the Local Planning Authority does not give permission to undertake that work from or above that land, without first obtaining authority from the tree owner.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team