

**Planning Officer:** Zac Denton

**Planning Application Ref:** FG/16/19/T

**Location:** 3 Lavender Court, 38 Ferringham Lane, Ferring, BN12 5LX

**Description of works:** Fell 1 No. Himalayan cedar tree

**Reasons given:** 1. Alleged root damage to footway 2. Fear of catastrophic tree failure

**Comments on Application:**

**Himalayan cedar / *Cedrus deodara***      Approx. height: 12m      Average spread: 5m      Age class: Mature

- This tree appears to be outwardly healthy and stable with an attractive crown profile. It gives the impression of being slightly stunted, a probable consequence of it growing in such an exposed coastal location. It is prominent at the front of the property and can be clearly seen from numerous residential dwellings and to highway users. As such, it has public amenity value.
- The applicant has implicated this tree in damage to the concrete footway, which is severely disrupted immediately adjacent the tree. Some damage (albeit to a far lesser extent) is observed elsewhere within the path. No obvious attempt has been made to repair (or investigate precise cause/nature of) the damage or propose an alternative landscape/engineering solution that would permit safe retention of this tree in harmony with its surroundings.
- The applicant has also indicated concern about the potential for this tree to fail. My own ground-level visual assessment of the tree did not reveal any obvious signs of pathogen activity, structural defect or root-plate displacement; to suggest the tree could be structurally unsound and/or present an unacceptable level of risk for its location.

**Conclusions:**

- The applicant has not submitted any written arboricultural advice or technical evidence from an appropriate expert in support of the reasons given for the proposed works. Importantly, we have not been provided with any results of ground investigations to determine the precise nature/extent of tree root influence in the damage event or details of any alternative landscape proposals that would permit safe retention of this tree in harmony with its surroundings.
- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- I am unable to accept the reasons stated as being sufficient to justify the work now proposed.

**Recommendations:**

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

Mark Warwick  
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team