

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton
Planning Application Ref: FG/174/18/T
Location: 17 Chalet Road, Ferring, West Sussex BN12 5PB
Description of works: Fell 1No. Monterey Pine. Replant with native species
Reasons Given: Health and safety (branch dieback, increased vulnerability to windthrow)

Comments on Application:

Monterey pine *Pinus radiata* Height: Approx.13m Average spread: 6m Age class: Mature

- This is a large tree with a wide spreading crown which overhangs the garden of several neighbouring dwellings.
- It appears to be stable but under some physiological stress, evidenced by localised branch death and decline. Some of these areas of decline are relatively large and would undoubtedly be cause for concern. Crown density is generally moderate to good but low in localised areas.
- There is some evidence of needle disease (probably caused by fungal infection) for which there is no practical remedy at this location. This may be progressive and ultimately weaken the tree such that it becomes unviable for long-term retention.
- This is a large and prominent tree; a major constituent of the high canopy in this locality. It grows from the rear of the property and can be seen from adjacent properties and the public highway.
- The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require permission.

Conclusions:

- This is a significant landscape tree and so despite its aesthetic value being slightly compromised; should be subject to careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression until such time as it becomes so unattractive and/or strongly asymmetric in form to justify its removal.
- The tree work proposed in the application has not been justified on arboricultural grounds. The removal of dead limbs/branches will visibly denude the overall crown, but the outer crown profile should remain attractive enough and remaining volume of limb/branch framework be sufficient to justify the tree's retention at this time.

Recommendations:

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

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team