

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: FG/92/20/T

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

Description of works: Fell 1No. Himalayan cedar

Reasons given: Alleged root damage to footway. Proximity to drains, property. Out of context within small garden.

Comments on Application:

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

- I last visited this tree (April 2019) in response to application ref. FG/16/19/T.
- At that time, it appeared to be outwardly healthy and stable with an attractive crown profile. It gave 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 was severely disrupted immediately adjacent the tree. Some damage (albeit to a far lesser extent) was observed elsewhere within the path. No obvious attempt had 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.

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 a landscape proposal 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.
- The work proposed has not been evidenced as necessary or otherwise justified on arboricultural grounds.

Recommendations:

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team