

Planning Officer: Richard Sherman

Planning Application Ref: FP/173/21/T

Location: 74 Outerwyke Road, Felpham, PO22 8LT

Description of works: 1no. *Macrocarpa* tree - Reduce canopy to height no less than 16m and spread no less than 12m and Crown Lift to approx. 6.5m-7m

Reasons given: None provided

Comments on Application:

Monterey cypress / *Cupressus macrocarpa*

Approx. height: 16m
Age class: Late mature

Average spread: 9m

- Outwardly and from a distance (roadside) this tree appears to be in a fair physiological state with a visually impressive (unmodified upper-) crown profile. Localised tip dieback of scattered branches symptomatic of fungal canker (*Seiridium cardinale*) and typical of large, aged specimens of this type. Several split and hanging branches, also characteristic of type and not obviously problematic for the tree's longer-term prospects.
- It is prominent at the front of the property; highly visible from numerous properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, it has high amenity value.
- The applicant seeks overall crown reduction pruning, a substantial operation to any extent yet no reasons given for that work. I see no obvious justification for same.
- Overhead clearance is for the most part adequate, although some long-term clearance of the carriageway and driveway is either necessary or desirable. Low branches have encroached into the adjacent public footway and carriageway, at a height which may obstruct safe passage. The removal of such material qualifies as an exception from the normal application process.
- The proposed removal of crossing/rubbing branches is considered good practice where it seeks to prevent/limit the presence of abrasion wounds that might facilitate ingress of harmful decay fungi or induce failure.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- The removal of low branches to achieve 7m clearance above ground level is not justified on arboricultural grounds and (for a tree of this size and crown height) exceeds that which is recommended in the British Standard (BS3998:2010) Tree work – Recommendations.
- *Crown reduction* has not been justified on arboricultural grounds.
- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendation:

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

Advisory:

- Under the terms of the exception, it would be acceptable at this location to prune to achieve a maximum of 2.5metres and 5.2metres overhead clearance above the footway/driveway and

carriageway respectively. It is important not to exceed those measurements, to do so would constitute unauthorised work.

- The removal of dangerous branches, such as those which are split and present an immediate risk of serious harm to persons or property, is an exception. The work undertaken must only be enough to remove that risk.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team