

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: FP/205/17/T

Location : 54 Outerwyke Road, Bognor Regis

Description of works: Fell 1 No Poplar.

Applicants Reasons: Tree is a safety concern and has become too large casting dense shade.

Comments On Application:

T 1 – Hybrid Black Poplar *Populus x euroamericana* Height = 26m Avge spread = 10m Age = Mature

- This is a significant tree in the landscape and appears sound and healthy and very vigorous.
- It is positioned on a West Sussex County Council verge outside No 54 adjacent to the road and thus is not in the ownership of the applicants at No 76.
- Given the species of tree concerned and its propensity to shed limbs at this age - having previously been very heavily topped out at 8m from ground level in the past – I can see why the applicants might have concerns over its safety.
- As such I approved a heavy crown reduction exercise to make this tree safe under application Ref: FP/166/17/T as recently as August this year.

Conclusions:

- This is the same applicant coming back in for felling instead of reduction.
- In my opinion this tree does not need to be felled to make it safe and we would lose a prominent tree in the landscape in the process.
- I therefore recommend **REFUSAL** of this application.

ADVISORY reference the pruning works approved under FP/166 = I sympathise with the applicants concerns for the safety of this tree and am able to recommend approval for the pruning requested but this does not give the applicant clearance to undertake the works. In order to do this they will have to first seek the approval of the owner of the tree. Failure to do so might render them liable to a legal action from the owners for trespass and damage to property.

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist