

Planning Officer: Hannah Kersley

Planning Application Ref: FP/205/21/T

Location: Bognor Regis Golf Club, Downview Road, Felpham, PO22 8JD

Description of works: Various works to various trees

Reasons given: Risk management (falling debris) and excessive shading

Comments on Application:

T38, T39, T43 Monterey pine / *Pinus radiata* Height: 20-25m Radial spread: 10-15m (T38, T39)
5-10m (T43) Age class: Late mature (T38, T39), Mature (T43)

- I have considered this application by means of a desktop review, using the information and plans submitted as well as online resources. Previous consideration from site and pre-application advice given to the applicant (based on my site observations below – December 2020) provides further insight to the proposal.
- All three trees have endured past removal and reduction of numerous low limbs/large branches, presumably to accommodate residential development at Wellers Close to the east. Premature and rapid loss of so much crown volume places great stress on trees of such age class (T38 & T39 particularly). Several of the reduced limbs have now declined and support no foliage - they are dying if not already dead.
- They carry a high percentage of dead branches throughout their crown. This is not obviously associated with any pathogen and typical of healthy examples of their type, which progressively shut down branches that become increasingly shaded-out as the tree grows larger. Nonetheless, they may be hazardous if allowed to persist.
- They are long-established, large, and highly visible; appearing to be in general good health they are significant landscape trees.
- The following work has been applied for:
0038 Remove low scaffold limb at 3m back to main stem. Large 45deg angle scaffold limb from 5m height with abrupt dogleg towards top-end – to be removed back to main stem. Trim other branches back to boundary fence line.
0039 Remove south-east tending limb back to main stem at approximately 9m height. Large scaffold limb immediately above the latter and tending east supports a 150mm diameter limb to be removed (2m above previous). Remaining branches can be pruned back to boundary fence line.
0043 Prune back branches to boundary fence line.

Conclusions:

- These trees require careful management that respects their age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression as well as being mindful of their pruning history. The work proposed is a proportionate response to the influence those trees have over neighbouring property.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

Part a) Where whole branches are to be removed and final cuts made close to the trunk or branch union they are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010

Part b) Where branches are to be shortened back the final cuts are to be made at the correct angle shown in BS3998:2010 and adjacent to a live bud or lateral.

Reasons: In the interests of the trees' continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

- ***See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter***

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

