

Planning Officer: Hannah Kersley

Planning Application Ref: FP/239/21/T

Location: 74 Outerwyke Road, Felpham, PO22 8LT

Description of works: 1no. Monterey cypress tree - Crown lift Northern canopy over footpath & road to 3.5m and 5.5m respectively; reduce Northern radial spread by 2.5m to leave 6.5m; reduce western canopy by 1.5m to leave a radial spread of 5.5m; reduce overall canopy height by 2m to leave height of 13.8m.

Reasons given: 1. Health and safety 2. Abatement of nuisance

Comments on Application:

Monterey cypress / *Cupressus macrocarpa* Approx. height: 16m Average spread: 9m
Age class: Late mature

- 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 familiarity with surrounding areas provides further insight to the proposal.

Comments (extract) from 23rd September 2021 – planning ref: FP/173/21/T

- *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.*
- *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.*

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds as it strikes a balance between the tree's influence and potential impact on surrounding persons and property, and the need to retain trees with dignity by having respect for tree health and natural form.
- If the work is undertaken to a high standard and at the right time, then the tree should be able to remain a visually interesting feature in the local landscape.

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 tree's 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***

Advisory:

- Although Cypress may respond with vigour to hard pruning, they have a poor tolerance of such work as shoots will not grow from old wood and long-term vitality can be severely affected. The optimum time to prune is during the late spring to early summer period (May to June).
- 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 and should be undertaken as soon as practicable.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

