

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley
Reference: FP/30/22/T
Location: 47 Roundle Avenue, Felpham, PO22 8LJ
Proposal: Fell 1no. *Populus* tree
Reasons given: Health and safety

Comments on Application:

Lombardy poplar / *Populus nigra Italica* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Late mature

- This tree is large and prominent, a long-established feature in the local landscape. Its removal would incur a substantial loss of visual amenity.
- Although supporting technical information is light on detail, I was able to observe sufficient evidence from my own ground-level assessment of the tree to help determine the application.
- There has been failure of a large scaffold limb from near its union with parent stem, revealing extensive decay at that point. It is likely to extend much deeper into the tree.
- There is a large open basal cavity roadside and from tapping around with a nylon hammer it is clear that the main stem is extensively decayed.
- There is evidence of honey fungus (rhizomorphs) at ground-level roadside.
- Should the tree be removed then it is necessary and appropriate to ensure a replacement of comparable ultimate stature be located in the same verge.

Conclusions:

- It presents an unacceptable level of risk for its location which cannot be mitigated by remedial pruning. The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds.
- There will be a significant loss of amenity although fortunately there is adequate room for a replacement tree of stature. It is desirable to maintain the tree-lined character of the estate roads.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** is granted subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work:

Condition 1

Once the tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 4metres.

This is to be of Selected Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the poplar tree.

The species shall be selected from the following: -

Field maple *Acer campestre*

Silver or Downy birch *Betula pendula/pubescens*

Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*

Wild Service tree *Sorbus torminalis*

- **Reasons:** To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace