

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: FP/64/20/T

Location: 9 Broomcroft Road, Felpham, PO22 7NJ

Description of works: Reduce overhanging branch of 1no. pine tree by 5m and remove deadwood and pine cones

Reason given: High risk of falling branches/cones causing damage to property

Comments on Application:

Monterey pine / *Pinus radiata* Height: 20-25m Spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance (restricted view of main stem and ground conditions over rooting zone) appears to be in a fair physiological state and free from obvious, significant structural defect. It has a balanced and attractive crown profile despite the recent history of limb/branch pruning over the applicant's property although density of foliage is only low-moderate.
- There is a prominent scaffold limb growing over the applicant's dwelling and garden, with reduced branch framework following past pruning work and assumed to be a subject of this application. There is limited scope for further pruning of said limb, such that the current proposal for further reduction of its branches would not meet the requirements of BS3998: Tree work – Recommendations and likely lead to its decline.
- Although the tree has considerable influence over the applicant's property it is also clearly visible from numerous residential properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, it has public amenity value.
- The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require permission.
- The removal of individual pine cones requires an application and if granted consent - can be undertaken without detriment to such a tree if executed carefully.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression. It has already endured significant limb/branch removal to facilitate reasonable enjoyment of adjacent property. A balance appears to have been already struck between the tree and surrounding structures; further pruning and especially to the extent proposed, would greatly diminish the visual amenity it currently provides and accelerate its decline. Any benefits accruing from such work are not justified on arboricultural grounds.

Recommendations:

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

Advisory:

- I would like to see the applicant submit a revised work specification such as detailed below, which would seem to address an element of their concerns whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:
 - Remove all Monterey pine cones with potential to fall into property of 14 Ramillies Gardens

- If the applicant is prepared to re-submit in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- Cones must be carefully removed from their parent branch or shoot with sharp hand-tools (e.g. secateurs, pruning saw, loppers) only. Needle-bearing branches and shoots must remain intact.

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

Advisory:

- We are obliged to advise that where trees are situated on land not owned by the applicant the granting of consent by this authority does not by association give permission to undertake such works that require access onto/from that land. Nor does it permit any work to take place beyond the boundary of the applicant's property. Additional permission must first be obtained from the land/tree owner.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team