

Planning Officer: Hannah Kersley

Planning Application Ref: P/152/21/T

Location: 17 Boleyn Drive, Pagham, PO21 3LG

Description of works: 2no. Lombardy poplar trees - reduce by 3-4m to previous cutting points to leave height 8m and spread 1.5m and crown thin by 20%

Reasons given: To maintain trees in safe condition and of a size appropriate for their location

Comments on Application:

2x Lombardy poplar / *Populus nigra Italica* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: 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 area provides further insight to the proposal.
- They grow at the rear of the property, part of a linear group of the same type spanning several properties. They are visible from surrounding properties and seen in part from public highway. As such, they have some public amenity value despite being aesthetically diminished by severe truncation of their main stems at approx. 8m height.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of these trees, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce their overall height and spread with a view to restricting growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- While a temporary loss of aesthetic value is inevitable, satisfactory canopy renewal and recovery should occur if the work is undertaken to a high standard and at an appropriate time of year.

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.

Part c) The removal of crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.

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***

Advisory:

The long-term vitality of these trees is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the mid-winter (late-December to early-February) period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

