

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 4th February 2026

Case Officer: Silvie Steiningerova

Reference: P/171/25/T

Location: Grass verge adjacent to 24 Spinnaker View, Pagham, PO21 3FL

Proposal: Crown reduction to 1no. Lombardy poplar (T1) to leave a height of 12m and remove 3 lowest limbs.

Reason: This tree has been dropping limbs over the past few months

Comments on Application:

Lombardy poplar / *Populus nigra Italica* Height: 20-25m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

This is a large, prominent tree in the local landscape; purposefully retained as part of the recent residential development of Spinnaker View and successfully accommodated within the layout.

The tree appears healthy and sound and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence to the contrary. It has a largely unmodified crown so presents an attractive profile. The main stem is partly obscured by ivy growth. A single detached primary branch has come to rest low in the crown on its north side. There is a historic tear-out wound at mid-height above. I saw no evidence of significant or numerous branch failures, nor has any evidence been provided to support the applicant's assertion.

This proposal is effectively a 'topping' operation rather than crown reduction as defined by the British Standard (3998:2010) and will create large wounds exposing a high proportion of ripe/heartwood to sapwood. This is likely to result in rapid development of decay in the main structures of the tree.

Conclusions:

The proposed work has not been justified on arboricultural grounds.

The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendation:

We refuse consent for this application.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer

Environment and Climate Change

From: Nicola Spencer on behalf of Planning.Responses
Sent: 06 February 2026 13:25
To: Planning Scanning
Subject: FW: P/171/25/T
Attachments: P.171.25.T.pdf

PL Consultation Tree officer response

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From: Mark Warwick <Mark.Warwick@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 February 2026 12:47
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Silvie Steiningerova <Silvie.Steiningerova@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: P/171/25/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Regards,

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer, Environment and Climate Change

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