

Planning Officer: Richard Temple

Planning Application Ref: P/27/17/T

Location : 18 Boleyn Drive, Pagham

Description of works: 10m crown reduction of two Lombardy Poplars + 20% thin.

Applicants Reasons Reduce to an acceptable and safe size appropriate to their location and surroundings.

Comments On Application:

Lombardy Poplars *Populus nigra 'Italica'* Height: 12m AvgeSprd: 3m Age: Early mature

- Two trees that are sound and healthy and vigorous with significant growth potential.
- Given the size of the rear garden and proximity of these trees I can see why the applicants would want to constrain their growth potential.
- However, these trees are only 12m tall and the applicant has asked to reduce them by 10m which would leave a 2m stump.
- I have concerns over the extreme amount of pruning that has been requested which amounts to an 83% reduction when 30% is the maximum recommended under BS3998:2010 i.e. around 4m reduction from the tops.
- I also object to thinning of this type of tree when it will very quickly put this growth back on and in the interim this actually opens the centre of the tree up to wind pressures and makes matters worse increasing the risk of branch failures – also the new growth which is put back on will be denser than before so in two ways you make matters worse rather than better by thinning.

Conclusions:

- These trees are visually significant in the landscape and the level of pruning needs to be less severe in nature – cutting at half height will leave a large open wound prone to fungal infection and decay which could in time result in cavities forming which undermine the integrity of the trees.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** of this application on the grounds that these are trees of high amenity value in the landscape and the level of pruning that has been requested is not only not justified but it has the potential to result in levels of damage that have a high probability of shortening the life expectancy of these trees.

ADVISORY:

- If the applicant chooses to come back in with an acceptable (in accordance with BS3998:2010 recommendations) level of pruning works then it would receive a favourable response.

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist