

Planning Officer: Richard Sherman

Planning Application Ref: P/48/21/T

Location: 20 Spinnaker View, Pagham, PO21 3FL

Description of works: Crown reduction of 2no. poplar trees to 26m in height and 5m in width

Reasons given: To keep good maintenance

Comments on Application:

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

- Outwardly and from distance (roadside) this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state (and assumed to be so in the absence of any information/evidence provided to the contrary). Described as two individual trees, which I could not substantiate from my limited perspective, although did clearly observe a tight cluster of five dominant stems that support a shared high-crown profile which is both unmodified and visually impressive.
- Both the original Arboricultural Survey submitted with planning ref. P/125/14/PL and Tree Preservation Order documentation; describe one poplar with multiple stems at this location. In any event, we can be confident the applicant proposes work to mature poplar in the rear garden of their property.
- The poplar was purposefully retained and preserved prior to recent development of this estate, to be in harmony with their surroundings. Although a large tree to be situated in this garden, it has high landscape value and complements its companion tree on the estate, due west and similarly preserved by TPO/P/2/15.
- While my estimation of tree height differs significantly from the applicant's, I attach more value to discussing the principle of 'crown reduction pruning' at this time.

Conclusions:

- The tree work operation proposed in the application 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:

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team