

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: P/90/19/T

Location: 17 Boleyn Drive, Pagham, PO21 3LG

Description of works: Reduce crowns of 2no. Lombardy poplars by 4-5m & crown thin by 20% on main stems

Reasons Given: To maintain trees at a size and in condition appropriate for their location

Comments on Application:

2x Lombardy poplar / *Populus nigra Italica* Approx. height: 12m Average spread: 1.5m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance both trees appear (restricted view from road) generally stable and in fair physiological condition at this time.
- 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 can also be 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 life-span 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.

Recommendations:

- 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.
- Part d) 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. The work must only be undertaken during this period.

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

