

Planning Officer: Mr Z Denton
Planning Application Ref: R/139/19/T
Location: 8 Elm Farm Cottages, Old Manor Road, Rustington, BN16 3FD
Description of works: Fell 1no. Douglas fir tree
Reasons given: Excessive growth potential

Comments on Application:

Norway spruce / *Picea abies* Height: 15-20m Spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

- There is no Douglas fir at the location marked on the applicant's plan drawing. That said, the sole forestry-type conifer which exists at that location is of near enough type and in isolation to leave no doubt that it is the subject tree.
- It appears to be generally healthy and stable with an attractive crown profile but gives the impression of being slightly stunted (low-moderate crown density) although tip-growth fortunately remains viable. This is a probable consequence of much of its rooting zone being under hard surfacing and subject to compaction.
- It can be clearly seen from numerous residential dwellings and to highway users (footway and carriageway). As such, it has public amenity value.
- The applicant has expressed concern about the growth potential and ultimate size of this tree, following advice from a local tree surgeon.

Conclusions:

- The tree work proposed in the application has not been justified on arboricultural grounds.
- This tree has moderate growth potential and is suitably located - occupying a shrub border alongside the adjacent dwelling's extensive rear garden and to the North aspect with correspondingly negligible effect on natural light levels to the same.
- Based on its current condition I believe this tree can be retained in harmony with its surroundings and throughout its anticipated lifespan. It is likely to continue providing significant visual amenity and has not been proven to present an unacceptable level of risk for its location - so should be retained.
- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree work proposed in the application would result in undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendations:

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team