

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: R/198/20/T

Location: Various locations, Sea Estate, Rustington

Description of works: Various works to various trees

Reasons given: 1. Risk management 2. Clearance over garden and built structure

Comments on Application:

- The applicant has submitted a tree survey and plan. This is comprehensive and includes a detailed work specification for each item.
- There are ten individual trees under consideration here. All are established (mature) conifers, including cypress and several different species of pine – all of which have public amenity value and make a significant contribution to the character of the area. Those trees are ideally suited to the maritime location, although they are large and close to residential dwelling such that they require regular inspection and timely intervention pruning where required.

1A Black pine – The removal of two branches from this limb is not justified on arboricultural grounds. Such growth does not appear to be problematic or causing actionable nuisance. Pine of this age especially do not easily generate new growth to compensate for such loss and the progressive removal of healthy low branches diminishes their aesthetic value. **Recommend refusal.**

2A Recommend works for approval.

3A Scots pine – *Deadwood and tip back all branches on N & E side by 1m to rebalance tree.* Outwardly healthy tree with asymmetric form (wind sculpted). The removal of deadwood is an exception from the normal application process. Support in principle. **Amendment to work proposal (branch reduction) is required.** See advisory below for suggested description.

4A – 8A incl. 5x Monterey cypress – No arboricultural justification for crown reduction pruning. It is accepted that during inclement weather small branches may break and with so many large examples of evergreen tree on the estate, those cypress will inevitably present tree managers with a high maintenance requirement. Any benefit accrued in that respect following wholesale crown reduction is likely to be slight in my view and not sufficient to justify the loss of visual amenity and commitment to repeating those works on a cyclical basis. **Recommend refusal.**

9A Recommend works for approval.

10A Scots pine – *Reduce NE limb over drive by 1.5m back to live growth and remove secondary (lower) limb.* Unable to interpret with confidence from site. In any event, pine of this age especially do not easily generate new growth to compensate for such loss and the progressive removal of healthy low branches diminishes their aesthetic value. **Amendment to work proposal required.** See advisory below for suggested description.

Conclusions:

- These trees require careful management that respects their age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- The work proposed for items 2A, 3A, 9A & 10A is justified and represents prudent management although some refinement to specifications are required.
- The work proposed for all other items although well-intentioned has not been fully justified and would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendations:

- As it stands, I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.
- I would like the applicant to be invited to consider the following advisory changes to their proposal (for lesser works) so that we can APPROVE this application and allow them to proceed without incurring further delay.

Advisory:

- **Remove T1A and T4A - T8A from the proposal.** Note: The removal of deadwood is an exception from the normal application process.
- **3A.** New specification to read: *'Prune selected branches to achieve maximum 1.5m reduction of lateral crown spread on North and East aspects only.'*
- **10A.** New specification to read: *'Remove the one (lowest hanging) branch which is both pendulous and declining, leaving a final pruning cut of no larger than 75mm diameter.'*

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- If the applicant is prepared to revise their work proposal in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend **APPROVAL** of this application subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- 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.

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

