

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: R/214/19/T

Location: Garden Land at Knightscroft House, Knightscroft House, Sea Lane, Rustington BN16 2RT

Description of works: Re-pollard to previous pollard points by approx. 2.5m from sides and 3.5m from top 1no. black poplar tree

Reasons Given: Significant regrowth from established pollard points

Comments on Application:

Hybrid black poplar / *Populus x canadensis* Approx. height: 18m Average spread: 5m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and stable. The main stem is ivy-clad from ground level up to the crown-break (around half-height). It has been the subject of pollarding work, last undertaken c2014 and currently displays 2-4metres of new growth from established 'knuckles' on an irregular limb framework.
- It grows at the front of the property and is prominent within the adjoining close. By virtue of its size, a large proportion of it can also be seen by public highway users (footway/carriageway). As such, it has public amenity value.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining life-span of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.

Conclusions:

- This tree has the potential to develop a heavy and congested limb/branch framework if allowed to grow unchecked, such that it may suffer partial failure of the same. The proposal to reduce its overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- The work proposed is necessary to mitigate risk of structural failure and so justified on arboricultural grounds.
- 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 conditions:

Conditions To Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

