

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: R/241/18/T

Location: Various locations within the Sea Estate, Rustington

Description of works: Fell stump & grind 1No. Monterey Pine tree & various surgery to 19No. various trees.

Reasons Given: General maintenance

Comments on Application:

- There are a large number of trees included in this proposal. The Works Specification and supporting Tree Location Plan were simultaneously considered during my site assessment. The information contained therein appears accurate and the vast majority of work is acceptable.
- There is a significant number of individual trees of merit across the estate, many of which are prominent roadside and visible from both surrounding dwellings and traffic accessing/exiting the estate.
- Only two work items were considered excessive or unnecessary at this time and requiring amendment or refusal – Nos. 3 & 10.
- The vast majority of work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds as it seeks to either maintain adequate clearance of carriageway, reasonable enjoyment of dwelling/garden or address structural defect - all with respect to natural tree form.
- The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require permission.

Conclusions:

- A number of the larger trees proposed for work require especially careful management, that both respects their age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- The removal of a large limb from pine tree outside 57 Sea Avenue (item no.3) would create a very large wound at the main stem with potentially serious implications for the tree's long-term health and vitality and would not comply with British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work-Recommendations.
- The removal of six limbs from pine tree outside 12 The Parkway (item no.10) is not justified on arboricultural grounds and exceeds that which is recommended in the British Standard (BS3998:2010) Tree work – Recommendations.
- The estate's trees are under responsible and careful management; I am confident there will be no significant loss of public amenity arising from completion of these proposed works (once revised) – see Advisory.

Recommendations:

- In its current form I would have to recommend **REFUSAL** for this application. That said, the vast majority of work proposed is acceptable and so with a couple of alterations (subject to the applicant's written agreement) I would be able to recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to conditions.

Advisory:

- I would like to see item number 3 removed from this application.

- I would like to see the applicant agree to a revised specification for item number 10, as detailed below, which would seem to address the resident's concerns whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:
 - Remove sub-lateral branches low on tree's west aspect of no more than 100mm diameter and in any event to achieve a maximum of 2m clearance from above the canopy of one established ornamental garden cherry, on front lawn of number 12 The Parkway.
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- If the applicant is prepared to re-submit in line with this advice (lesser work), then I would be able to recommend **APPROVAL** 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.
- During all repeat crown reduction work, the removal of 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 crown reduction, is undertaken during either the mid-summer (mid-June to mid-September) or mid to late-winter (January-February) periods. Such work must only be undertaken during these periods.

Reasons: In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team