

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner
Planning Application Ref: R/271/19/T
Location: Smugglers, 4 Botany Close, Rustington, BN16 2BH
Description of works: Fell 1no. Monterey cypress tree
Reasons Given: Tree is in advanced state of terminal decline

Comments on Application:

Monterey cypress / *Cupressus macrocarpa* Height: 15-20m Average spread: 10-15m Age class: Late-mature

- This tree is in a poor physiological state evidenced by deterioration in crown density and vigour, an inevitable consequence of the extensive mechanical damage I first became aware of in May 2018.
- It is one of several very large cypress trees that contribute to the character of the area, grows at the front of the property and is prominent within the close. It can also be seen in part by traffic accessing/exiting this part of the estate. As such, it would have had high public amenity value all the while it enjoyed good health and vitality.
- The applicant believes the tree to be dying and proposes its removal and replacement nearby with a type of similar landscape value and tolerance of coastal conditions.

Conclusions:

- This was a high-profile specimen tree of significant public and visual amenity and so its loss may be keenly felt. It is in irreversible decline and should be removed before it becomes obviously dangerous. It will inevitably present an unacceptable level of risk for its location and so the work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds.
- The loss of such a large volume of high canopy and standing wood incurs a deficit to both the natural environment and visual amenities of the locality. A suitable replacement tree should be planted nearby to help compensate for that loss.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following condition:
Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -
- Once the tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 4metres.

This is to be of minimum Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the Monterey cypress tree.

The species shall be selected from the following:-

Holm oak *Quercus ilex*

Austrian/Corsican pine *Pinus nigra Austriaca/Maritima*

Mock privet *Phyllirea latifolia*

Strawberry tree *Arbutus sp.*

- **Reasons:** To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team