

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner

Planning Application Ref: AB/86/20/TC

Location: 22 Maltravers Street, Arundel, BN18 9BE

Description of works: 1No. Holm oak tree (T1) South sector remove one low, descending limb of 20cm approx. diameter over the garden of No.24. Remove three low, descending limbs of 12cm approx. diameter over the garden of No. 22. North sector. Remove one low limb of 20cm approx. diameter originating at the main fork within the Arundel Conservation area

Reasons given: Excessive shade and overhang

Comments on Application:

Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Height: 15-20m Spread: 5-10m Age class: Late mature

- Outwardly and from a distance this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and stable. It is prominent and visible from a relatively wide area, being a large tree in elevated position a good distance from any dwelling. This is a tree of high public amenity value.
- It has a complex crown arising from past erratic pruning (severe truncation of limb framework on N aspect, top height reduction and heavy reduction of limb framework on S aspect) and tear-out wounds (storm damage?). Despite all that to contend with it has grown-on well and presents an attractive crown profile.
- Low growth on its S aspect affects two properties (20 and 22) in particular. The very existence of the tree will present some seasonal nuisance (leaf dispersal) which should be tolerated given the wider benefits and shading, although the latter is not likely to be excessive given its northerly position relative to the applicant's property. Retention of low canopy is important if high levels of visual amenity are to be maintained.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- The removal of low limbs and large branches as described has not in my view been justified on arboricultural grounds. Furthermore, the creation of more large wounds about the main stem and scaffold limb framework may have serious implications for the tree's long-term health and vitality.
- There is scope for lesser pruning work, to both preserve the tree's ongoing health and vitality whilst achieving greater harmony with its surroundings; such as a crown lift to provide 4metres overhead clearance on all aspects (note elevation difference beneath canopy) – which would require a separate application.
- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendations:

- I object to the works that have been applied for and recommend the making of a Tree Preservation Order to preserve its place in the landscape and better control its future management. I attach a TEMPO form and GIS plan for this purpose.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team