

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner

Planning Application Ref: AL/16/20/T

Location: 21 Belle Meade Close, Woodgate, PO20 3YD

Description of works: Crown reduction to height 12m and spread 10m on 1no. oak tree

Reasons given: To maintain suitable canopy size for its location

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 10-15m Spread: 5-10m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from a distance this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state, which can present an attractive crown profile when in-leaf.
- It is a long-established boundary tree, sadly hemmed-in by development from the west. It could easily dominate the rear garden of the applicant's property if left to grow un-checked. It is clearly visible from surrounding properties and in part from the public highway (footway and carriageway).
- It has been the subject of past crown reduction pruning involving a severe truncation of the limb framework (effectively a high-level pollard) when initiated c2004, then maintained at those dimensions c2012. Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of this tree, to achieve a structural state appropriate for its location.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- 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 condition:

Condition 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.

Reasons: In the interest of the tree's 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

Advisory:

- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late-spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team