

Planning Officer: Amber Willard
Planning Application Ref: AW/101/19/T
Location: 47 Old Place, Aldwick, PO21 3AX
Description of works: Crown reduction of 1.5m to 1 No. oak tree
Reasons Given: General tidy-up

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Approx. height: 12m Average spread: 5m Age class: Early-mature

- Outwardly and from a distance this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state albeit with a heavily modified crown – from which it has grown-on well and now presents an attractive profile. It grows at the rear of the property and can be seen from neighbouring dwellings but has only limited visibility from publicly accessible land.
- It has been the subject of several past crown modifications resulting in a dense, compact form.
- 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.
- The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require permission.

Conclusions:

- 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.
- There will be some loss of public amenity on completion of the proposed works, but this is outweighed by the long-term potential for nuisance and elevated risk of structural failures in the crown, arising from the tree's uninhibited growth.
- If the work is undertaken to a high standard and at the right time (see recommended conditions) then the tree should not suffer undue harm to its ongoing health and vitality.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following conditions:

Conditions To Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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 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 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

