

Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: AW/114/18/T

Location: Walkway at Garden Court/Lodge Court, Aldwick

Description of works: Reduce 1 No. Oak tree by 2-2.5m over walkway & adjoining property & reduce branches on southern aspect back to joints.

Reasons Given: Removal of significant boundary overhang / beneficial to tree health

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* Height: Approx. 16m Average Spread: 8m Age: Mature

- This tree has landscape value and makes a significant contribution to the high canopy locally. It is visible from surrounding properties and to traffic accessing/exiting nearby estate roads.
- It appears to be under significant physiological distress, evidenced by low upper crown density, stem bleeding and fungal decay event. This tree has accelerated growth at lower levels, which may be indicative of 'crown retrenchment' response.
- It has previously undergone a top-height reduction and shortening of several low limbs/branches on the south aspect.
- By virtue of its close proximity to a residential dwelling it is reasonable to expect some building encroachment in the longer term.

Conclusions:

- There will not be an enhancement of the tree's amenity value or vitality on completion of the proposed work, although it would appear to address a concern for longer term building encroachment and reasonable enjoyment of garden area.
- The work proposed will not result in a notable loss of amenity value.

Recommendations:

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

Condition

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.

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