

Planning Officer: Amber Willard
Planning Application Ref: AW/13/18/T
Location: 1 The Drive, Aldwick
Description of works: Reduce crown by 25% to 4 Holm Oak trees
Reasons Given: To ensure they remain safe and healthy.
Comments On Application:

Holm oak x4 *Quercus ilex.* Average Height: Approx. 12m Average Spread: 4.5m Age: Mature

- These four trees are principal constituent parts of a significant local arboricultural feature; being of similar age and stature.
- They are situated in a prominent position being highly visible from the public highway, neighbouring properties and traffic accessing/exiting the estate. Their collective high canopy dominates and helps define the character of the surrounding area.
- The extent of proposed crown reduction work has been incorrectly specified as a percentage, rather than in metres. I have calculated that a 25% reduction in height and spread would result in approximately 50% reduction of crown volume. Nevertheless I am able to determine the application as it stands, as it has not been demonstrated that an overall reduction of tree height and spread (to any extent) is justified on arboricultural grounds.
- Where there is an obvious history of crown reduction work (T1 and T2) – they have ‘grown out’ well and all display attractive crown profiles characteristic of their species.
- Individually and collectively they have high amenity value and are of mature age, so should be subject to careful management.

Conclusions:

- These trees are a significant feature in the local landscape and appear to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of their landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality, in conflict with policy GEN7 of the Arun District Local Plan.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team