

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner
Planning Application Ref: **AW/143/19/T**
Location: **3 The Spinney, Aldwick, PO21 3RL**
Description of works: **Fell 1no. holm oak tree**
Reasons Given: Excessive influence over property (garden and building)

Comments on Application:

Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Approx. height: 8m Average spread: 2.5m Age class: Early mature

- This tree appears to be outwardly healthy and stable with an attractive crown profile, albeit heavily modified. What defects observed are of apparent limited consequence.
- Due to its truncated form, it is discreet within the rear garden and visible only in part to adjacent properties. Nonetheless, it has a heavy influence on ground conditions and dominates the garden space.
- It probably was once an important constituent of the high canopy locally which help(ed) define the character of the area and represent a significant public amenity, although it has inevitably come under 'pressure to prune' following unsympathetic development.
- The applicant advises of a history of honey fungus (*Armillaria* spp.) at the site and I have taken this into account with my recommendation for replacement tree types.

Conclusions:

- There will be no significant loss of public amenity on completion of the proposed works, although it represents an unfortunate loss of crown volume.
- This tree has the potential to develop a heavy and congested limb/branch framework if allowed to grow unchecked, such that it may suffer partial failure of the same, long before it reached full maturity. Repeat 'crown reduction' work would frequently be required, bringing into question the value of retaining such a specimen in this context at the expense of replacing with a more appropriate and beneficial tree type.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following condition:
Condition To Be Applied to Approved Work: -
- Once the tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 4metres.

This is to be of Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the holm oak tree.

The species shall be selected from the following:-

Alder *Alnus incana* (and its cultivars).

Strawberry tree *Arbutus unedo* or comparable species

Turkish hazel *Corylus colurna*

Olive *Olea europaea*

- **Reasons:** To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team