

**Planning Officer:** Mr F Gardner

**Planning Application Ref:** AW/145/19/T

**Location:** 7 The Drive, Aldwick, Bognor Regis, PO21 4EE

**Description of works:** Height reduction of 4m and lateral reduction of 2m to 1no. holm oak tree

**Reasons Given:** To maintain safety margin and improve light levels

**Comments on Application:**

Holm oak / *Quercus ilex*      Approx. height: 15m      Average spread: 6m      Age class: Mature

- It appears to be outwardly healthy and stable with an attractive crown profile, despite having undergone abrupt truncation of its main stems and lateral crown reduction.
- It grows at the front of the property and is prominent roadside. It is clearly visible from surrounding properties and traffic accessing/exiting this part of the estate. It is growing in very close proximity to the front boundary, with associated major heave and distortion to adjacent built structures and hard surfacing on the applicant's property.
- It is an important constituent of an established long line of trees, the high canopy of which help define the character of the area and represent a significant public amenity.
- The improvement of light levels is not sufficient to justify the work proposed, although I can accept the need to manage the tree in a reduced state for reasons of preserving structural integrity and suppressing its influence over surrounding hard landscape features.

**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.
- 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 conditions:

**Conditions 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.
- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the mid to late-winter (mid-December to February) period. 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

