

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner
Planning Application Ref: **AW/164/19/T**
Location: **Rear of 7 Larchfield Close, Aldwick, PO21 4DW**
Description of works: **Remove ivy, deadwood, reshape & reduce 1no. English oak by up to 4m**
Reasons Given: To correct atypical form and promote vitality

Comments on Application:

T72 Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Approx. height: 16m Average spread: 7m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state. It has previously been the subject of crown reduction work but has 'grown on' well and presents an attractive crown profile.
- It grows at the rear of the property but by virtue of its size can be seen from numerous dwellings and clearly from publicly accessible land.
- It is an important constituent of an established long line of trees which help define the character of the area and represent a significant public amenity.
- The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require permission.
- Ivy is not protected under the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012.

Conclusions:

- I am unable to concur with the reasons stated as being sufficient to justify the work now proposed. It's rather drawn-up form is probably not an indicator of poor vitality or mis-management yet does highlight the importance of maintaining the upper limb and branch framework intact. The severance/removal of established ivy-growth would undoubtedly be of benefit at this time.
- The proposal to reduce the height by 4m would be likely to result in harm to the health and vitality of the tree with large pruning wounds being formed as well as undermining its visual amenity value and impact in the landscape.
- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendations:

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team