

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: **AW/16/19/T**

Location: **16 Singleton Close, Bognor Regis, PO21 4JY**

Description of works: **Reduce east facing crown by 2-3m to 1 No. oak tree**

Reasons Given: Heavily one-sided crown and elevated risk of branch failure

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Approx. height: 16m Average spread: 8m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance it appears to be in a fine physiological state. It grows at the rear of the property and is an important constituent of an established group of mature oak trees that help define the character of the area and represent a significant public amenity.
- The crown of this tree is heavily asymmetric upon a sweeping main stem and grows primarily over the garden of this property. Past pruning (not undertaken by the current owners) of low branches has been of a poor standard with irregular poorly placed wounds and some associated progressive dieback.
- Several branches at mid-top height are 'leggy' and potentially unsound. It is those that are of most concern to the applicant and the subject of this application.
- The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require permission.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds as it seeks to strike a balance between the tree's influence and potential impact on surrounding residential property and the need to retain trees with dignity by having respect for natural tree form.
- There will be no loss of public amenity on completion of the proposed works.

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.

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

