

Armand De Filippo
6 Seacourt Close

Aldwick
PO21 4RD

Your Ref: OWPC19127
Our Ref: AW/171/18/T 29-05-2018
Please ask for:
Zac Denton

9th July 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Town & Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012

3m Crown Reduction to 1No. Oak tree
6 Seacourt Close Aldwick

Thank you for your internet representation made on 8th July 2018 which has been recorded as '**an objection**' with the comments as follows:

I request that the following concerns and issues be taken into consideration concerning the proposed reduction of the crown of the English oak.

The central area of the crown has already been cut away to accommodate a substantial shed/treehouse. The removal of limbs to the southern and eastern aspects of the tree has left it comparatively bare and spartan. Similarly, the western side of the crown appears to have been heavily chopped back and re-growth seems poor and laboured. Consequently, the tree has a very poorly developed and imbalanced structure. The central area is largely devoid of foliage and there is little to cut back to.

Consequently, any reduction work is likely to have just as detrimental an effect on the tree now, as Arun Planning concluded it would have had in 2016. With an existing crown of barely 5 metres, a reduction of 2 to 3 metres would, undoubtedly, have a pernicious effect on the tree.

It would seem sensible, in the first instance, to remove the solid wooden shed, which, sitting some 6 to 12 feet above the ground, certainly inhibits the passage of light through the tree, but also impedes the growth of a balanced crown. The tree should then be given ample time to regenerate its centre before any consideration be given to crown reduction. In time, with careful and judicious pruning it could be as healthy and aesthetically rounded as the neighbouring oak (no.7).

The tree's current size is modest, both for its species and in relation to its immediate arboreal neighbours, and provides valuable screening and privacy in relation to the houses to the west. It should be remembered that oaks develop a naturally open canopy to enable light to penetrate through to the ground and that, with age, the oak will naturally shorten its canopy, which enables it to extend its lifespan.

Serious consideration should also be given to the tree's wider value as a community amenity, both as an anti-pollutant, and because the oak provides a habitat rich in biodiversity; oaks support more life forms than any other native trees. They host hundreds of species of insect, supplying many British birds with an important food source. However, acorns are not produced until the tree is at least 40 years old and peak acorn fecundity usually occurs around 80. Any amputative work is likely to have an impact on this tree's ability to do this and consequently have a negative impact on the dependent eco-system.

In any event, work involving the tree should be avoided until the bird nesting season is over and, indeed, until the tree is dormant in mid-winter.

Unfortunately it is not possible for the council to respond to each representation individually but your views will be considered before the application is determined and I shall write to inform you of any decision made.

If the application is to be determined at the Development Control Committee and your letter has been received after the agenda has been published, you will not receive a separate letter notifying you of the date of the meeting and the procedures for public speaking. In such circumstances, it is recommended that you track the progress of the application on the website or telephone for further information. Please be advised that any comments received after the the Development Control Agenda has been produced will be reported to the meeting. Please also note that only a small number of all planning applications are determined at the Development Control Committee, most are determined by officers under delegated power.

All representations are published on our website so please make sure your views are clear and only include information that you are happy for the public to view. Do not include personal information or information from third parties unless you have their permission to do so. Do not include information that is defamatory or breaches equality or other legislation. If you do not wish your comments to appear on the website and on the file, please confirm this in writing and I will arrange for it to be destroyed, although this does mean that its contents will be disregarded. For details of what we do with your personal information please refer to our privacy statement comments on planning applications which is available on our website www.arun.gov.uk/planning-privacy-statements.

In the event of a subsequent written representations appeal, against a refusal of planning permission on a householder application, any representations made on the application will be automatically forwarded to the Secretary of State. Unlike all other types of appeal, there will be no further opportunity to comment at the appeal stage.

Yours faithfully

Neil Crowther
Group Head of Planning