

Planning Officer: Charlotte Burrows

Planning Application Ref: AW/171/18/T

Location: 6 Seacourt Close, Aldwick, PO21 4RD

Description of works: 3m Crown Reduction to 1No. Oak tree

Reasons Given: 1. Excessive shading 2. Risk of damage to property

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* Height: Approx. 9m Average Spread: 4m Age: Semi-mature

- Tree appears to be in a fine physiological state with no obvious signs of disease, when assessed from ground level. It has only moderate form at present having historically been subjected to severe crown reduction work from which it has responded surprisingly well. Although some of the primary scaffold limbs have declined there is sufficient limb framework and canopy for it to display an attractive crown profile and thereby provide visual amenity.
- It grows adjacent a boundary at the confluence of four rear gardens and enjoys a prominence on all aspects. It therefore is clearly visible from several surrounding properties and at a satisfactory distance from residential dwelling so as not to present unreasonable nuisance or excessive shading. It can also be seen from the adjacent publicly accessible road/footway network, albeit with some limitation – this will improve if the tree is allowed to gain in stature.
- The nearest point of built structure is a conservatory along the rear elevation of 6 Seacourt Close, at a distance of approximately 10metres from the tree.
- The extent of pruning work proposed exceeds the requirements of British Standard 3998:2010 'Tree Work' – Recommendations.

Conclusions:

- It has not been demonstrated (nor evidence provided in support of) that this tree requires crown reduction work on arboricultural grounds. I see no obvious risk of damage to built structures at this time. Although the boundary fence lines are in varying states of disrepair they are both intact and functional with scope to accommodate main stem expansion as the tree grows.
- The tree already represents a visual amenity and has potential to develop into a significant feature in the local landscape. It 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 current value and curtail its potential, thereby constituting an undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendations:

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

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team