

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: AW/173/21/T

Location: 53 Old Place, Bognor Regis, PO21 3AX

Description of works: Crown reduction of 1no. oak tree to height and spread 15m and removal of epicormic growth

Reasons given: To maintain tree at size proportionate to garden

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 8m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from distance (rear service alley, restricted view) this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state (and assumed to be so in the absence of any information/evidence provided to the contrary). It has previously been the subject of whole crown reduction pruning, last undertaken c2015, from which it has grown on well.
- This is a long-established tree of apparent good health albeit with a heavily modified crown. It is highly visible from numerous properties and in part from publicly accessible land. While it may have potential to outgrow its location particularly if left unchecked; it remains an important constituent of an established local population of oak trees which help define the character of the area and represent a significant public amenity.
- The proposal to reduce its overall height and spread with a view to restricting growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds. Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.
- If the work is undertaken to a good standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the tree's long-term vitality and visual amenity.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

Part a) 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

Part b) 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.

Part c) 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.

Reasons: In the interests of the tree's 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

Advisory:

- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

