

TREE WORKS CONSENT REPORT

REF NO: **AW/178/09/T**

LOCATION: 3 The Spinney
 Aldwick

PROPOSAL: Fell 1 Holm Oak, 1 Whitebeam and 1 Cherry tree

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above
SITE AREA	N/A
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT DEN	N/A
TOPOGRAPHY	Predominantly flat
TREES	1 no. Whitebeam, 1 no. Holm Oak and 1 no. Cherry tree.
BOUNDARY TREATMENT	Predominantly open to front, close boarded fencing and vegetation to rear.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	The site is a two storey brick faced detached dwelling.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	The site is located in a small residential cul-de-sac of properties of a similar style.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

BR/921/83/T	To lop 3 evergreen oaks	Approve Cond 23-11-1983
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REPRESENTATIONS

Representations received:

Aldwick Parish Council

Objection. Members rejected this application as it lacked the necessary supporting Arboriculturist/Specialist reports required to establish the application purpose. Members strongly recommend that the Arun Arboriculturist be consulted on this application.

Comments on Representations received:

Noted.

CONSULTATIONS

Horticulturist

Consultations responses received:

District Arboriculturist:

The Sorbus (Whitebeam) is dead and not established, and the Cherry tree is not in very good

health either, and is not likely to survive for long if we experience prolonged dry summers, and relatively wet winters. There is mention in the application that the reason for the death of the trees is the presence of Honey Fungus, however, neither of the above species is known to be susceptible to the disease.

The Evergreen Oak (*Quercus Ilex*) is the only tree in the back garden which remains and is under the TPO of 1958, is a superb specimen though a bit squat in appearance and was worked upon in 1983, and possibly in 1987 after the hurricane. It has put on a good amount of healthy growth of recently and is not showing any sign of disease apart from some hollows in the main trunk structure, common in trees of this age. Similarly to the above, this species is not known to be susceptible to Honey Fungus.

There is not any compelling reason why this tree should be felled, and I would suggest it be pruned, reducing the overall growth by 20% and the crown thinned by a similar amount to retain the trees form and stature, and to become a good focal point for the proposed landscaping.

Comments on Consultation responses:

Comments noted

POLICY CONTEXT

Designation applicable to site:
Within the Built Up Area
Tree Preservation Order

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

South East Plan:

Arun District Local Plan:	GEN2	Built-up Area Boundary
	GEN7	The Form of New Development
	GEN28	Trees and Woodlands

PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development

SUPPLEMENTARY POLICY GUIDANCE

XXX1 Circular 36/78
XXX2 DETR TPO's A guide to Law and Good Practice

POLICY COMMENTARY

The above policies are general and, other than Circular 36/78 and DETR TPOs, are not specific to trees.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND/OR LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states:

"If it appears to a Local Planning authority that it is expedient in the interest of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees.... they may for that purpose make an order"

The works to the trees are to be judged having regard to amenity.

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is considered that there are no other material considerations to warrant a decision otherwise than in accordance with the Development Plan and/or legislative background.

CONCLUSIONS

This application seeks permission to fell 3 trees at 3 The Spinney, Aldwick. The trees include 1 Holm Oak, 1 Whitebeam and 1 Cherry tree.

The trees are located in the rear garden of the dwelling. Whilst the Whitebeam and Cherry trees are not well established, however the Holm Oak is a relatively mature specimen, and as such is deemed to be of amenity value.

The District Arboriculturist has been consulted and has advised that the Sorbus (Whitebeam) is dead and not established, and the Cherry tree is not in very good health either, and is not likely to survive for long.

However, the Evergreen Oak (*Quercus Ilex*) is a superb specimen though a bit squat in appearance and was worked upon in 1983, and possibly in 1987 after the hurricane. It has put on a good amount of healthy growth of recently and is not showing any sign of disease apart from some hollows in the main trunk structure, common in trees of this age.

There is not any compelling reason why this tree should be felled, and I would suggest it be pruned, reducing the overall growth by 20% and the crown thinned by a similar amount to retain the trees form and stature, and to become a good focal point for the proposed landscaping.

It is therefore recommended that the application be refused, for the following reason:

RECOMMENDATION

REFUSE

- 1 There is no arboricultural reason for the Holm Oak tree to be felled and its felling would detract from the amenities of the locality in conflict with policy GEN7 of the Arun District Local Plan.