

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner
Planning Application Ref: **AW/187/19/T**
Location: **45 Craigweil Lane, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 4AN**
Description of works: **Dismantle and fell to ground level 1no. English oak tree**
Reasons Given: Obstruction to vehicles attempting use of driveway

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Approx. height: 10m Average spread: 4m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly it appears to be in a fine physiological state and structurally sound. It is a prominent tree both highly visible from numerous properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway).
- The upper limb and branch framework has achieved good symmetry and presents an attractive crown profile, albeit on an imperfect (pronounced kink) but nonetheless strong main stem.
- The property is served by a single vehicle width driveway to garage at the only logical position for this plot. The present obstruction from main stem prevents access across half width to between 2 and 3metres above ground level.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds as the present situation is intolerable for the occupier(s) and there is no intermediate tree work option or reasonable engineering solution which would allow for harmonious retention of the tree.
- It is ecologically and aesthetically unfortunate to lose such a valuable tree, although there is a relatively high density of trees in the immediate locality with landscape value and long-term viability. In view of this and the absence of a suitable location for adequate replacement planting close enough to the original tree I would not look to condition the same in this instance.

Recommendations:

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team