

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner
Planning Application Ref: AW/190/20/T
Location: 2 The Spinney, Aldwick, PO21 3RL
Description of works: Fell 1No. Holm oak
Reasons given: Health and safety

Comments on Application:

Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Height: 5-10m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from a distance it appears to be in a fine physiological state.
- It has been the subject of heavy pruning over many years resulting in a dense, compact crown. Due to its truncated form, it is discreet within the rear garden - visible only in part from adjacent properties and with difficulty from publicly accessible land.
- It probably once was an important constituent of the high canopy locally which help(ed) define the character of the area and represent a significant public amenity, although it had inevitably come under 'pressure to prune' following unsympathetic development.

Conclusions:

- There will be no significant loss of public amenity on completion of the proposed works, although it represents an unfortunate loss of crown volume.
- This tree has the potential to develop a heavy and congested limb/branch framework if allowed to grow unchecked, such that it may suffer partial failure of the same, long before it reached full maturity. Repeat 'crown reduction' work would frequently be required, bringing into question the value of retaining such a specimen in this context at the expense of replacing with a more appropriate and beneficial tree type.
- Approval of this application carries a duty to secure a replacement to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority and it is pleasing to note the applicant's stated intention to do so.
- I have recently been advised of a history of honey fungus (*Armillaria* spp.) in the locality and I have taken this into account within my recommendation for replacement tree types. Birch trees are known to be susceptible to infection.

Recommendations:

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

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- Once the tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 4metres.

This is to be of Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the holm oak tree.

The species shall be selected from the following:-

Alder *Alnus incana* (and its cultivars).

Strawberry tree *Arbutus unedo* or comparable species

Turkish hazel *Corylus colurna*
Olive *Olea europaea*

- **Reasons:** To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team