

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: AW/193/17/T

Location : 2 The Spinney, Aldwick

Description of works: Fell 2 No Holm Oaks and plant one replacement tree.

Applicants Reasons : Trees are a safety concern.

Comments On Application:

T 1 / T2 – Holm Oaks *Quercus ilex* Height = 10m Avge spread = 5m Age = Early Mature

- These two trees are positioned in the rear garden of No 2 The Spinney.
- The owners have employed a tree surgeon who has pointed out to them that both trees are badly diseased, structurally unsafe and have outgrown their location close to the house.
- I inspected the bases of both trees and also the open wound and cavities on the trunks of both trees.
- **T1** – *is the smaller of the two trees and is positioned to the left of the pair as you face them with your back to the house* – has a very large and significant basal wound with active decay where a subsidiary trunk has been removed in the past. The tree has been topped out at 4m in the past but has now recovered a reasonable crown area.
- **T2** – *is the larger of the two trees and is positioned to the right of the pair as you face them with your back to the house* – has a variety of wounds on the main trunk resulting from previous limb removals but none have any depth or significance to them as far as stability or compromising health are concerned. This tree has a full and dense crown of branchwork being made up of regrowth following the heavy topping out at 4m in the past.

Conclusions:

I sympathise with the fact that the owners have two evergreen trees in their rear garden which dominate one corner of their garden.

- **T1** – this tree is weak in structural form and the significant decay is positioned at a crucial point close to ground where it could indeed fail. The removal of this tree would benefit the growth and form of the other tree.
- **T2** – this tree has a larger crown and in view of the previous heavy topping out it would be advisable to periodically undertake a repeat crown reduction exercise. However, I do not consider this tree to be unsafe.

Recommendations:

- I recommend part **REFUSAL** and part **APPROVAL** of this application.
- **T1** – In view of its poor form and decay undermining its integrity I recommend **APPROVAL** for its removal but no replacement tree will be required in this instance.
- **T2** – There is no justification for the removal of this tree and I recommend **REFUSAL**.

Advisory:

I recommend that the applicants re-submit seeking the following:-

***T2** – reduce in height by 1m to 1.5m and then reduce the lateral branches to varying degrees (to be specified by the tree surgeon) depending on the length and condition of same i.e. some of the longer low limbs across the neighbours boundary will need more reduction than those that face into the owners garden.*


Consultant Arboriculturist