

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: **AW/227/18/T**

Location: **Land on Hewarts Lane, adjacent to 18 Coventry Close, Aldwick**

Description of works: **Crown reduce 2No. Oak trees by 2m in height and 1m in spread**

Reasons Given: To improve natural light to property

Comments on Application:

T13 Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Height: Approx. 16m	Average Spread: 8m	Age: Mature
T14 Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Height: Approx. 16m	Average Spread: 6m	Age: Mature

- Both trees were assessed from the front of the applicant's property. They appear to be in a fine physiological state with good form. Crown profiles are attractive having avoided any significant modification other than the gradual removal of low branches.
- They are visible from adjacent property and prominent alongside the main road (Hewarts Lane), being important constituents of a historic line of mature oak trees. They have significant landscape value and help to define the character of the area.
- The applicant proposes crown reduction to improve ambient light levels to the property although the majority of their crown spreads are to the north of this property and so there is unlikely to be any significant light occlusion. Overhead and lateral clearance of branches above and from the property is adequate.

Conclusions:

- These are long-established trees given adequate room during relatively recent development at this end of Coventry Close, so as to be purposefully retained in harmony with surroundings. The work proposed has not been justified on arboricultural grounds.
- They are individually (and part of) a significant feature in the local landscape and appear to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in reduction of their landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality. Furthermore, any approval for this work may set a precedent whereby similar trees of value nearby will be diminished.

Recommendations:

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

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team