

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: **AW/255/18/T**

Location: **7 Larchfield Close, Aldwick, West Sussex PO21 4RB**

Description of works: **5m Crown Reduction to previous pruning points of 3No. English Oak**

Reasons given: **1. Surveyor highlighted potential damage to property 2. To increase light levels**

Comments on Application:

T72 Pedunculate oak / <i>Quercus robur</i>	Height: Approx.16m	Average spread: 7m	Age class: Mature
---	--------------------	--------------------	-------------------

T73 Field maple / <i>Acer campestre</i>	Height: Approx.12m	Average spread: 3m	Age class: Mature
--	--------------------	--------------------	-------------------

T74 Pedunculate oak / <i>Quercus robur</i>	Height: Approx.12m	Average spread: 5m	Age class: Mature
---	--------------------	--------------------	-------------------

- All three trees appear to be outwardly healthy and stable. All have previously been the subject of crown reduction work. Both oaks have 'grown on' well and present an attractive crown profile. The maple less so, having obviously been pollarded at about two-thirds height.
- They grow at the rear of the property but by virtue of their size can be seen from numerous dwellings and clearly from publicly accessible land.
- They are important constituents of an established long line of trees which help define the character of the area and represent a significant public amenity.

Conclusions:

- Both oak trees are significant features in the local landscape and appear to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. They can be satisfactorily managed without recourse to extensive crown reduction work at this time.
- The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of their landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.
- I am unable to concur with the reasons stated as being sufficient to justify the work now proposed. No evidence has been provided that quantifies the risk of tree-related damage to property.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for the work proposed on **T72** and **T74**.
- Further to on-site discussion with the applicant, I recommend we invite them to revise their proposals for T72 and T74 seeking lesser work, such as detailed below:

T72 – Remove epicormic growth from about the main stem and twin stem union (to a height of approximately 4m).

T74 – Crown lift to 3m on all aspects.
- If the applicant is prepared to re-submit in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following conditions:
- Where whole branches are to be removed and final cuts made close to the trunk or branch union they are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010
- Where branches are to be shortened back the final cuts are to be made at the correct angle shown in BS3998:2010 and adjacent to a live bud or lateral.

Reasons: In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

- I recommend **CONSENT** for the work proposed on **T73**, subject to the following conditions:

Conditions To Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- The removal of crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.
- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during either the mid-summer (mid-June to mid-September) or mid-winter (mid-December to mid-February) periods. The work proposed must only be undertaken during these periods.

Reasons: In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team