

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: **AW/257/18/T**

Location: **St Anthony of Viareggio, 61 Gossamer Lane, Aldwick PO21**

Description of works: **Reduce crown of 1 No. Oak tree by no more than 2m**

Reasons Given: Branches overhang public footway and church roof

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: Approx.12m Average spread: 6m Age class: Early mature

- Tree appears to be healthy and stable with an attractive crown profile. It has a full and relatively unmodified crown with established low limbs and branches.
- Suppression by the large poplar has not been unkind to this tree, in that it has been able to spread and develop a balanced, compact form which is visually interesting.
- Building interference and public footway interference is negligible at this time.
- This tree is highly visible from the adjacent busy highway and surrounding properties; thereby provides a notable public amenity.

Conclusions:

- The removal/reduction of small branches (<50mm diameter) so far as is necessary (but no more) to avoid damage to the fabric of building and that prevents obstruction of free passage for pedestrians; does not require an application. This application seeks to reduce overall crown dimensions by 2metres, which is not justified.
- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendations:

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

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team