

Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: AW/319/21/T

Location: 1 Craigweil Manor, Aldwick, PO21 4AP

Description of works: 1no. holm oak tree (T1) - reduce height to 14m north tree only and removal of deadwood/storm damaged branches. 2no. poplar trees - reduce height to 9m and radial spread to 4.5m and trimming of wind burnt/storm damaged branches to tidy

Reasons given: To tidy and maintain health of trees exposed to extreme conditions

Comments on Application:

T1 Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age: Early-mature

T2 2x Grey poplar / *Populus x canescens* Height: 5-10m Radial spread: 0-5m Age: Early-mature

- These trees are located to the rear of the property and are visible from the shoreline and adjacent property.
- **T1** - There are two holm oak which enjoy a shared crown profile and root zone. The northern tree is the largest; both have unmodified primary limb/branch framework. They appear stable and in fair physiological condition.
- **T2** – There are two grey poplars which enjoy a shared crown profile and root zone. They are acutely wind-pruned and have an erratic pruning history (evidence of past ‘lopping’ and partial crown reduction) but overall retain a visually appealing crown profile.
- The removal of dead and dangerous (broken/hanging) branches are exceptions from the normal application process and do not require prior approval from the local planning authority. Note: please read important advisory comments below.

Conclusions:

- There is no obvious arboricultural justification for whole crown reduction work to holm oak (T1). In the absence of such, the tree surgery proposed in the application would result in reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality
- The work proposed to T2 is justified and consistent with previous work approved by the local planning authority.

Recommendations:

- As it stands, I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.
- **I would like the applicant to be invited to agree to lesser works** (by removing T1 oak – height reduction pruning from the proposal) as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay. Such work would go some way to addressing their concerns whilst preventing a diminution of landscape and amenity value.

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- 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 condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

Part a) 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

Part b) 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.

- See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter

Advisory:

- What is the exception for work on dangerous trees and branches?

Where a tree presents an immediate risk of serious harm and work is urgently needed to remove that risk, tree owners or their agents must give written notice to the authority as soon as practicable after that work becomes necessary. Work should only be carried out to the extent that it is necessary to remove the risk.

In deciding whether work to a tree or branch is urgently necessary because it presents an immediate risk of serious harm, the Secretary of State's view is that there must be a present serious safety risk.

If the danger is not immediate the tree does not come within the meaning of the exception.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team