

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: **AW/337/20/TC**

Location: **39 The Drive, Aldwick, PO21 4DT**

Description of works: **Oak (T1) - Reduce crown by up to 2m to height 10m and spread average 5m due to excessive shading**

Reasons given: Excessive shading

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 5-10m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

- The above tree has previously been considered for pruning work under planning reference AW/349/15/T. Consent was granted for crown reduction and the Tree Officer at the time considered the tree to be a subject of Area Order – Bognor No2. I concur with the assessment that this tree is likely to have been established at the time the Order was made (1958). As such, I have constructed this report on that basis and not as if the application were a Section 211 Notice – ‘Notification of proposed tree work in a Conservation Area.’
- Outwardly this tree appears to be in a fair physiological state and stable. It has a severely truncated main stem and much diminished asymmetric limb and branch framework. It was last subject to reduction pruning work c.2015, from which it has responded with moderate vigour.
- Although a relatively weak and unimpressive specimen, it is a constituent of the long-established and visually impressive oak population that is characteristic of the area. It grows from the grass verge roadside and highly visible to traffic accessing/exiting this part of the estate. As such, it has some public amenity value.
- The tree has a light crown, is of comparatively low height and >15metres distance from the south elevation of nearest dwelling.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its weak physiological state and vulnerability to disease progression. There is insufficient extension of new growth since the last major pruning operation (c2015); so that repeat crown reduction at this time (or within the next 2years) would be too early in the management cycle and likely have a negative effect on its long-term vitality; perhaps accelerating terminal decline.
- I do not accept that excessive shading is impacting substantially on the enjoyment of any dwelling or garden.

Recommendation:

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team