

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: **AW/343/20/T**

Location: **5 The Drive, Bognor Regis, PO21 4DU**

Description of works: **Reduce crown of 2no oak trees (T1) to a final height of 17m and a spread of 8m, (T3) to a final height of 16m and spread of 8m reduce crown of 1no sycamore tree (T2) to a final height of 16m and a spread of 8m**

Reasons given: To maintain all trees to a reasonable size

Comments on Application:

T1 Pedunculate oak / <i>Quercus robur</i>	Height: 15-20m	Radial spread: 0-5m	Age class: Early mature
T2 Sycamore / <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Height: 15-20m	Radial spread: 0-5m	Age class: Mature
T3 Pedunculate oak / <i>Quercus robur</i>	Height: 15-20m	Radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Early mature

- All trees were assessed from the roadside verge. Outwardly and from distance they appear to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any information/evidence provided to the contrary.
- T1 and T2 both have an unmodified upper crown of similar dimensions. Although individually of pronounced asymmetric form due to proximity to one another, they share an attractive crown profile, which is highly visible from numerous dwellings and to the high frequency of pedestrian and vehicular traffic accessing the estate. As such, they have high public amenity value.
- T3 appears to be the largest of the three trees, although more discreetly located close to the rear of the house. It has been the subject of past crown reduction pruning, last undertaken c2016. Regrowth appears to be within the 1-1.5m range and so the work proposal seeks to repeat that operation.

Conclusions:

- T1 & T2 - The trees are a significant feature in the local landscape and appear to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application has not been justified and would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.
- T3 - Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.
- The proposal to reduce its overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- While a temporary loss of aesthetic value is inevitable, satisfactory canopy renewal and recovery should occur if the work is undertaken to a high standard and at an appropriate time of year.

Recommendations:

- As it stands, I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.
- **I would like the applicant to be invited to agree to a revised proposal for lesser works** (such as described below) as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay. Such work would address their concerns in respect of T3 whilst preventing a diminution of the other tree's (T1 & T2) landscape and public amenity value:

T3 Oak – Repeat crown reduction pruning, removing approximately 1.5m maximum of regrowth since last operation. Finished dimensions of approximately 16metres height and 8metres spread, subject to the condition below.

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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.
- Part c) Where pollarding or crown reduction pruning has occurred previously, then 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.

Reasons: In the interests of the tree's 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

Informative:

- The long-term vitality of tree **T3** is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

