

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin
Planning Application Ref: **AW/348/20/T**
Location: **Malin House, The Close, Aldwick, PO21 4EP**
Description of works: **Fell 3no. holm oak trees**
Reasons given: Established and ongoing structural damage to boundary retaining wall

Comments on Application:

3x Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Height: 10-15m Average spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- I have considered this application by means of a desktop review, using the information and plans submitted as well as online resources. Previous consideration from site and familiarity with surrounding area provides me with further insight to the proposal.
- The applicant has employed The Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd as agent, to prepare and submit a detailed report on the trees and their association with surrounding features. The arboricultural report is comprehensive and supported by written findings from a Structural Engineer.
- It is clear from the report and my own past observations that these trees are a significant landscape feature and provide some public amenity. It is also clear the relationship between trees and heavy retaining wall has become intolerable and there is no acceptable solution that permits their retention.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed has been justified on arboricultural grounds.
- There will be an unfortunate loss of public amenity on completion of the proposed works, but this is outweighed by the inconvenience and risk of harm to a 3rd party, as well as intolerable damage to property arising from the trees continued presence.
- An opportunity exists to plant replacement trees at a location more harmonious with their surroundings and which ultimately can introduce a new landscape feature of similar impact.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- Once the trees have been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then three replacement trees are to be planted equidistant and in the same place or nearby and to within 5metres.

They are to be of Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

They are to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the holm oak trees.

The species shall be agreed in writing in advance with the local planning authority's Tree Officer.

Reasons: To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team