

Planning Officer: Amber Willard
Planning Application Ref: AW/3/18/T
Location: 3 Seacourt Close, Bognor Regis
Description of works: Reduce 1x Oak tree by 3metres in height and spread
Reasons Given: To open out crown and prevent crossing branches
Comments On Application:

Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* Height: Approx. 10m Average Spread: 6m Age: Early-mature

- This tree has potential long-term landscape value, is of good form and apparent good health.
- It can be seen from neighbouring properties but is only visible from the road with some difficulty, at this time.

Conclusions:

- This tree has high growth potential but is ideally located - occupying a near central position within a large garden and at a distance from the residential dwelling that is likely to be harmonious and complimentary throughout its anticipated lifespan.
- There is limited public view of this tree at present, but this will increase if the tree is left to develop naturally and so provide a significant long-term amenity. It is unusual for such a tree to enjoy the room to develop with no foreseeable threat of above/below-ground interference and is an ideal candidate to become a future landmark tree of considerable age and stature.
- There is no obvious arboricultural justification for the work proposed. Crown reduction work would spoil its natural looking form in the short-term and initiate vigorous regrowth throughout the crown interior. Although it has been subject to a past crown reduction (AW/12/13/T) it has due to its age and condition been able to 'grow out' satisfactorily. If we consent to this latest tree work application now it could obligate us to approve further applications for a repeat operation and thus remove its potential to achieve very high amenity value.
- The applicant has proposed 'crown reduction' work. To address the reasons given, one would ordinarily seek to 'crown thin' – although it is not usually an effective operation and frequently exacerbates the perceived problem one is trying to resolve. Neither operation is necessary or appropriate at this time.

Recommendations:

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

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team