Recommendation Report for Works to Tree(s) on trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO)

REF NO: AW/51/22/T

LOCATION: Oak Tree Cottage
Acorn End
Aldwick
PO21 4JA

PROPOSAL: 1 No. Oak tree - Crown reduction to leave height 12m and spread 11-12m.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above.
TREES	The tree is situated to the front of the property.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	Dwelling.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	Residential.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

AW/76/19/T	Remove 2 deadwood branches each approx 7m on east and west aspect from 1 No. Oak tree.	Withdrawn 07-05-19

Relevant planning history noted.

REPRESENTATIONS

Aldwick Parish Council - No Objection
- Members agreed that the Arun Arboriculturist is consulted regarding the application and that his recommendations/decision be applied.

No representation received from nearby occupiers.

COMMENTS ON REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED:

Noted.

CONSULTATIONS

CONSULTATION RESPONSES RECEIVED:

Outwardly and from roadside this tree appears to be in a fair-poor physiological state. The rooting zone has been encroached upon and impacted by development which may explain the early onset of crown retrenchment.

Small dead branches are found throughout the crown. Historic 'topping' of main stem around 7 height from which it has grown on to establish a uniform crown profile. Excessive past pruning has left lower half of stem devoid of branches.

The tree is prominent within the cul-de-sac and so highly visible to residents and visitors. As such, it has public amenity value.

The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require notification to or prior consent from the local planning authority.

Conclusions:
This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.

The work has been justified on arboricultural grounds. Deadwood content is high and indicative of physiological stress. It is important for the tree's prospects that reduction work is confined to the outer reaches of its small branch network, so as to remove the majority of dead/dying material whilst minimising stress from pruning into live material.

If the work is undertaken to a high standard and at the right time then the tree should be able to remain a long-term visually interesting feature in the local landscape.

Recommendation:
I recommend CONSENT is granted subject to the following condition.

COMMENTS ON CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

Comments noted.

POLICY CONTEXT

Built Up Area Boundary
TPO
Pagham Harbour Zone B
2km Buffer for Site of Special Scientific Interest

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE:

NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Practice Guidance

POLICY COMMENTARY

The above policies are general and, other than online Planning Policy Guidance under references ID 36-090-20140306 and ID 36-091-20140306, are not specific to trees.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND/OR LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states:
"If it appears to a Local Planning authority that it is expedient in the interest of amenity to make provision

for the preservation of trees.... they may for that purpose make an order"

The works to the trees are to be judged having regard to amenity

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is considered that there are/are no other material considerations to be weighed in the balance with the Development Plan.

CONCLUSIONS

Following the comments from the Tree Officer, it is recommended consent be approved, subject to the following conditions and informatives.

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

The Council in making a decision should be aware of and take into account any implications that may arise from the Human Rights Act 1998. Under the Act, it is unlawful for a public authority such as Arun District Council to act in a manner, which is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

Consideration has been specifically given to Article 8 (right to respect private and family life) and Article 1 of the First Protocol (protection of property). It is not considered that the recommendation for approval of the grant of permission in this case interferes unreasonably with any local residents' right to respect for their private and family life and home, except insofar as it is necessary to protect the rights and freedoms of others (in this case, the rights of the applicant). The Council is also permitted to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest and the recommendation for approval is considered to be a proportionate response to the submitted application based on the considerations set out in this report.

DUTY UNDER THE EQUALITIES ACT 2010

Duty under the Equalities Act 2010

In assessing this proposal the following impacts have been identified upon those people with the following protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation).

The proposal would have a neutral impact on the protected characteristics.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE CONDITIONALLY

1 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

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.

The oak tree should be uniformly reduced in height and spread to leave a balanced structure on completion as shown in Figure 4 of BS3998:2010. Final dimensions of the tree should be a

minimum of: Height 12metres, Radial spread 5.5m.

Reasons: In the interest of the tree's continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

2 INFORMATIVE: The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work (such as proposed) is undertaken during the late spring to summer period (May to August).

3 INFORMATIVE: The applicant should note that under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, with only a few exceptions, it is an offence for any person to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild birds while the nest is in use or being built. Birds nest between March and September and therefore removal of dense bushes, ivy or trees or parts of trees etc. during this period could lead to an offence under the act.

4 INFORMATIVE: This notice does not give authority to destroy or damage a bat roost or disturb a bat. Bat species are protected under Section 39 of the 1994 Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations (as amended), the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) and the 2000 Countryside and Rights of Way Act. It is illegal to damage or destroy any bat roost, whether occupied or not, or disturb or harm a bat. If you are aware that bats roost in a tree(s) for which work is planned, you should take further advice from Natural England (via the Bat Conservation Trust on 0345 1300228) or an ecological consultant before you start. If bats are discovered during the work, you must stop immediately and contact Natural England before continuing.