

Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: AW/60/18/T

Location: 1 Craigweil Manor Aldwick

Description of works: Holm Oak (T1) - Reduce crown by 1.5 metres, removing any major deadwood and any dead limbs located throughout the canopy. Goat Willow (T2) and White Poplar (T3) - Crown lift to achieve a 1-metre clearance between the lower canopy and the adjacent wall whilst removing any crossing and rubbing branches located throughout the canopy.

Reasons Given: T1 – None given. T2 & T3 – To achieve satisfactory clearance of built structure

Comments on Application:

T1 Holm oak *Quercus ilex* Height: Approx. 9 and 12 m Average spread: 5 and 6m Age: Early-mature

T2/T3 Grey poplar *Populus x canescens* Height: Approx. 7m (combined) Average spread: 4m (combined) Age: Early-mature

- These trees are located to the rear of the property and are visible from the shoreline and adjacent property.
- **T1** - There are two holm oak in close proximity which enjoy a shared crown profile. It is not clear from the application which tree is proposed for crown reduction work although I assume it to be the most southerly (and smaller) of the two or perhaps both. There is no reason given for this work or obvious justification from my own ground-level observation. It was not possible to comprehensively the larger of the two trees due to the proliferation of ivy growth and ground vegetation.
- **T2** – There was no established goat willow tree apparent at this location.
- **T3** – There are two grey poplars in very close proximity which enjoy a shared crown and root profile. They are acutely wind-pruned and have an erratic pruning history (evidence of past ‘lopping’ and partial crown reduction) but overall retain a visually appealing crown profile.

Conclusions:

- There is insufficient information provided to justify the work for either holm oak (T1). In the absence of such, the tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality
- There are a number of irregularities with the information provided, although the work proposed to T3 can be safely assumed as applying to both grey poplar (TPO group) without harmful consequence and is an appropriate specification.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for the part of this application which proposes work (as specified) for T1.
- I recommend **CONSENT** for the part of this application which proposes work (as specified) for T3.

Advisory:

- The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require permission.
- The applicant could be asked to amend their application, to read as follows:

Tree: T1 (currently shown as T3 on their plan) – 2x Grey poplar

Work specification: Crown lift to achieve a 1-metre clearance between the lower canopy and the adjacent wall whilst removing any crossing and rubbing branches located throughout the canopy.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team