

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner

Planning Application Ref: **AW/65/20/T**

Location: **Holly Lodge, 3 Barrack Lane, Aldwick, PO21 4BY**

Description of works: **Prune back to previous points 1no. holm oak tree**

Reasons given: Excessive overhang of property and faecal deposits from roosting birds

Comments on Application:

Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Approx. height: 8m Average spread: 3m Age class: Early mature

- I have considered this application by means of a desktop review, using the information submitted as well as online resources (including previous application history).
- Outwardly and from a distance this tree appeared to be healthy and stable (May 2019). One of three trees (two holm oak, one sycamore) in close proximity with a history of heavy and regular crown reduction pruning, that collectively provide a visual amenity to the surrounding area.
- Repeat crown reduction pruning will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is consistent with previous applications (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:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, 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) 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 interest 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*

Advisory:

- We are obliged to advise that where trees are situated on land not owned by the applicant the granting of consent by this authority does not by association give permission to undertake such works that require access onto/from that land. Nor does it permit any work to take place beyond the boundary of the applicant's property. Additional permission must first be obtained from the land/tree owner.

- The long-term vitality of this trees is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the mid-late winter (January to February) period. The work should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

