

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: **AW/88/20/T**

Location: **20 The Oaks, Aldwick PO21 3AE**

Description of works: **Reduce 1no. oak tree Southside laterals to 3m and North East and South East lateral to 7m**

Reasons given: None provided

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: Approx. 18m Average spread: 10m Age class: Late-mature

- This tree by virtue of its great age is clearly included in the area Order (TPO) Bognor No.2. Outwardly and from a distance it appears to be in a fine physiological state. A large and ecologically valuable tree of local significance.
- It grows at the rear of the property but can be seen from numerous local dwellings and publicly accessible land.
- This large tree has suffered great intrusion from recent development to the south and east and consequently has a dominant presence over adjacent dwellings and gardens.
- Recent pruning of lateral branches on south aspect has been undertaken - appears to have followed the granting of consent for tree work application AW/363/18/T. The work is excessive and has effectively removed all crown material overhanging the boundary with 19 The Oaks, with erratic recovery of new growth from pruning wounds.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- It is inevitable that following development so close to this tree a 'pressure to prune' would arise.
- The desire to prune back branches away from the building (20 The Oaks) is entirely reasonable and justifiable on arboricultural grounds, but the extent of pruning proposed on the south aspect is excessive and would result in unacceptably large pruning wounds being formed as well as undermining its visual amenity value.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application in its current form.

Advisory:

- I would like to see the applicant agree to a revision of the existing specification, seeking lesser work by way of **removing** the element '**Reduce 1no. oak tree Southside laterals to 3m**'. The remaining elements '**Reduce 1no. oak tree Northeast and Southeast laterals to 7m**' would seem to address the primary concern of the applicant whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:

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- If the applicant is prepared to re-submit in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL 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.

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:

- 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). The work proposed should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

