

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin
Planning Application Ref: A/50/21/T
Location: Acorns, Arundel Road, Angmering, BN16 4ET
Description of works: Fell 1no. oak tree
Reasons given: Health and safety

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from distance this tree appears to be in a fair physiological state. It has previously been the subject of hard crown reduction pruning, following which epicormic growth has emerged from the main stem but with only moderate shoot extension in the upper crown. Overall, the crown presents a rather stunted appearance.
- Close inspection of the stem base reveals a void on the W side which betrays a large cavity extending above and below ground level. The opposing side when also tapped with a nylon hammer suggests decay is extensive across the main stem. Discoloration of the soft bark is a likely trace of past fungal bracket attachment. Amongst the leaf litter around the stem base are several desiccated fragments of the same, susp. *Inonotus dryadeus*.

Conclusions:

- The applicant is keen to retain the tree although to do so would require a repeat of the crown reduction pruning, that I fear would accelerate its decline. Given the target area (high frequency usage) and foreseeable ongoing deterioration of the main stem and structurally important roots - I consider long-term retention of this tree to be intolerable for the applicant.
- The work proposed is necessary to mitigate risk of structural failure and so justified on arboricultural grounds.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following condition:
Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -
- Once the tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 10metres.

This is to be of Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the oak tree.

The species shall be selected from the following: -

Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*

Field maple *Acer campestre*

Wild service *Sorbus torminalis*

- **Reasons:** To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team