

Planning Officer: Harry Chalk

Planning Application Ref: BN/129/21/T

Location: 129 Farnhurst Road, Barnham, PO22 0LL

Description of works: 1 no. oak tree (T1) re-pollard back to previous points reducing the canopy by 1-3m

Reason given: To reduce sail area and manage risk of failure

Comments on Application:

T1 Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state. Integrity of twin stem structure is compromised by a deep longitudinal cavity and ongoing heartwood decay.
- The tree has effectively been managed as a pollard in recent years and this application seeks to repeat that cycle of pruning. This form of containment pruning is necessary to mitigate risk of stem failure which at this location could be catastrophic.
- It is prominent at the front of property and highly visible to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). There are numerous mature oaks distributed across the surrounding estate that add great character to the area, of which this is a major constituent.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds. If undertaken to a high standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the tree's long-term vitality and visual amenity.
- The proposal to reduce its overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Recommendation:

- 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 pollarding operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond those points 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:

- 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). Ideally the work should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

