

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: BR/206/18/T

Location: The Maples, 45 Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis PO21 2TQ

Description of works: 1.5m reduction to top of crown & 1.5m reduction to area of crown overhanging Flat 5 to 1 No. Oak tree

Reasons Given: Unable to determine from application (scanned copy to online resource). Assumed as mitigation for risk of future stem failure.

Comments on Application:

Tree A - Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* Height: Approx. 12m Average spread: 6m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance it appears to be in a fine physiological state. It is discreetly located within a prominent linear group of trees that separate and provide valuable screening between large residential developments.
- This tree has a heavily asymmetric and compact form. There are a number of large open cavities low on its main stem (a result of historic large limb removal) and which collectively are of justifiable concern in respect of long-term structural integrity.
- Although boundary overhang is considerable, building interference at Homecroft House is negligible at this time but likely to be direct in the near future. The reduction of branches on this aspect is necessary to achieve long-term reasonable clearance.
- For clarity, I include a map showing the location of the oak tree I have determined as being the subject of this application, based on the description of the tree therein.

Approx. position of oak tree - The Maples, Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis



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Conclusions:

- On completion the work proposed will achieve reasonable clearance of built structures and mitigate an established risk of future stem failure, whilst having respect to natural tree form.
- The work proposed is justified and if undertaken to a high standard will not incur a noteworthy loss of amenity value to the surrounding area.
- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during either the mid-summer (mid-June to mid-September) or mid-winter (mid-December to mid-February) periods.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following conditions:

Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- 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
- 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.
- Pruning work as described must only occur during either the mid-summer (mid-June to mid-September) or mid-winter (mid-December to mid-February) periods.

Reasons: In the interests of the trees 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.*

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

