

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: BR/220/18/T

Location: Hardy House, 25 Nelson Road, Bognor Regis PO21 2RY

Description of works: 2m Crown Reduction to 1 No. Oak tree and Crown Lift to provide 5m ground clearance

Reasons Given: Substantial shading of property

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* Height: Approx. 14m Average spread: 5m Age class: Mature

- This tree appears to be in a fine physiological state with an attractive crown profile; having 'grown out' well, despite and in response to historic severe crown reduction/lopping.
- It can be seen from many neighbouring dwellings and occupies a prominent roadside position and highly visible from the public highway (road and footway)
- It has been the subject of several past crown modifications resulting in a dense, compact form. It is a large tree growing close to residential dwelling and will have an oppressive effect.
- Overhead canopy clearance is already around 4m and so the crown lifting operation will predominantly involve the removal of epicormic growth growing from the main stem and only minor reduction of established branches.

Conclusions:

- The reason given is not sufficient to justify the work proposed. That said, this is a tree which has undergone such intense 'containment pruning' during its relatively short life so far, that repeat work will become necessary throughout its lifespan to ensure it remains in a structural condition appropriate for its location and does not cause direct damage to built structures.
- Building interference is problematic at this time. The extent of proposed reduction on the tree's southern aspect is necessary to achieve satisfactory clearance. Balancing work on all other aspects of the crown is reasonable and justified.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter.

- Overall crown reduction work must only be undertaken during either the mid-summer (mid-June to mid-September) or mid-winter (mid-December to mid-February) periods. The pruning of branches to achieve a maximum of 1.5m building clearance is permitted outside of this seasonal constraint to abate nuisance and prevent superficial damage to the fabric of the building.

Reasons: In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace