

Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: BR/225/21/T

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

Description of works: Crown reduction of 1no. oak tree to height approx. 10m and spread approx. 8m

Reasons given: To prevent branches rubbing on building and balance crown profile

Comments on Application:

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

- Outwardly this tree appears to be in a fair physiological state with an attractive crown profile, having 'grown on' well, following past crown reduction pruning (last undertaken c2018). It was pollarded much earlier in life.
- It can be seen from numerous properties and occupies a prominent roadside position. As such, it has public amenity value.
- It has been the subject of several crown modifications resulting in a dense, compact form. It is a large tree growing close to residential dwelling and periodic pruning is necessary to maintain adequate clearance of buildings and highway.

Conclusions:

- 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.
- If the work is 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.

Recommendation:

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

Condition to Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

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 operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point 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 oak tree is best respected when significant (whole crown reduction) pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late spring to summer period (May to August).

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

