

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: BR/263/19/T

Location: 32 Normanton Avenue, Bognor Regis, PO21 2TU

Description of works: Fell 1no. oak tree

Reasons Given: Health and safety (extensive decay in stem base and roots)

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Approx. height: 14m Average spread: 7m Age class: Mature

- The applicant has employed The Arboricultural Consultancy to assess the tree and provide a report on its condition. This is comprehensive and I concur with the findings and recommendations therein.
- Outwardly and from a distance this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state. It grows at the rear of the property where it dominates its surroundings and can be seen from both neighbouring dwellings and public highway (footway and carriageway).
- On closer inspection, it is clear that there is an established ongoing decay event, which is significant in terms of structural integrity and extensive.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is necessary to mitigate risk of structural failure and so justified on arboricultural grounds. The report provided is comprehensive such that I do not need to re-iterate the findings therein; suffice to say the tree sadly now presents an unacceptable level of risk for its location. Furthermore, there is no reasonable and effective form of remedial action.
- The loss of such a large volume of high canopy and standing wood incurs a deficit to both the natural environment and visual amenities of the locality. A suitable replacement tree should be planted nearby to help compensate for that loss.

Recommendations:

- 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 4metres.

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 cherry *Prunus avium*

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

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team