

From: Mark Warwick
Sent: 22 February 2019 14:19
To: Charlotte Easton
Cc: Planning.Responses
Subject: BR/315/18/T

Charlotte

Please find attached my comments/observations for your consideration.

Regards,

Mark

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Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: BR/315/18/T

Location: 9 Pevensey Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 5NR

Description of works: Crown reduction 2m, crown lift 5m and thin epicormic growth by 30% to 1 No. oak tree

Reasons Given: Excessive shading and unbalanced crown profile

Comments on Application:

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

- This is a large and valuable old boundary oak tree, visible from neighbouring dwellings and from across the expansive allotment site. It has landscape value.
- Outwardly and from a distance it appears to be in a fine physiological state with a relatively unmodified and attractive upper crown profile.
- The applicant proposes a potential 2metre reduction of top height and lateral spread in addition to crown lifting to provide 5m overhead clearance on all aspects. If the full extent of meterage is applied on all aspects during both operations, it would exceed the recommendations in British Standard 3998:2010 – Tree Work.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression. The work proposed is unnecessarily severe and if enacted to the maximum extent on all aspects would result in a damaging loss of crown volume.
- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application in its current form.

Advisory:

- Further to on-site discussion with the applicant, I would like to see them submit a revised specification seeking lesser work, such as detailed below, which would seem to address their concerns whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:
 - Reduce lateral extent by no more than 2m, from its south-east aspect only.
 - Crown lift (remove low branches) to achieve no more than 3metres of clearance above ground level, from north-west to south east aspects only (the allotment side).
 - Selective removal of epicormic growths from low on the main stem and around the crown-break; thinning to a maximum of 30%.

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- If the applicant is prepared to re-submit in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend **CONSENT** subject to the following conditions:

Conditions To Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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.

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

