

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: EG/71/18/T

Location: Oakside, Old Rectory Drive, Eastergate, PO20 3XH

Description of works: Reduce crown to previous pruning points to 1 No. Oak tree.

Reasons Given: Risk management

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: Approx. 20m Average spread: 7m Age class: Mature

- This tree has previously been the subject of substantial crown reduction work (c2009) and approved by the Local Planning Authority. This was in response to the findings from a detailed decay investigation undertaken by a consultant arboriculturist, expert in this field of work.
- This latest application is supported by a detailed Arboricultural Report from Phillip Ellis, which is comprehensive and informative, such that I do not need to assess the tree for myself.
- This is clearly a valuable tree although it has a multitude of defects and requires careful management to preserve it with dignity and in a state appropriate for its location.
- This large tree is a major constituent of the high canopy in this locality. It grows from the rear of the property and can be seen from adjacent properties and the public highway.

Conclusions:

- Work proposed is necessary to mitigate an evidenced risk of structural failure and so justified on arboricultural grounds.
- The proposal to repeat crown reduction work is consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- There will be a slight (and hopefully temporary) reduction in the tree's amenity value, which is an unavoidable consequence of this work.

Recommendations:

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

Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- 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.
- 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.

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 Team