

25 August 2009

FROM:

Mark Everson
Arboricultural Officer
37945

TO:

James Smith
Planning

PLANNING APPLICATION FG/103/09/T

FELL HOLM OAK & REPLACE WITH HOLM OAK 3 TO 4 METRES TALL

Thank you for your recent memo regarding the above application.

I have seen the tree a Holm Oak (*Quercus Ilex*) which is the subject of the application, and it is situated on a very prominent forecourt on the junction of Ferring Street and Sea lane, Ferring. The tree at distance appears to be healthy, and of very high amenity value. It is situated in an improvised brick planter which has a height of 0.5 M and was constructed around the tree presumably for decorative purposes. The trees height is Approximately 10 metres, and the overall spread is around 8 metres, and the girth of the tree is approximately 2metres.

On close inspection of the tree has a hollow at the base quite clearly visible on the north side (I was able to easily put a stick into the hollow to 18") I believe the trees is only being supported by the buttress root. Furthermore there is no indication of where the aforementioned hollowness extends up the main trunk, or indeed to the root plate.

The area around the tree is hard macadam road and on the pedestrian side, it is block paving presumably on a very hard surface, and this paving is being lifted in several places where roots have grown over a period of time. One of the roots, though not visible had a large Fungal growth appearing from between the block paving, while another root is growing toward the car showroom, and is now lifting the internal flooring within. At the same time the metal door threshold is being lifted and twisted making it impossible to secure the property. There are almost sure to be other roots in the vicinity, which have are causing similar damage.

I do not consider that the problem can be solved by root pruning. This would render the tree unstable as it would reduce the anchorage of the tree on the side where it is most needed, and am of the view that this tree should be removed and the application permitted as the tree is in decline, and a replacement planted into new soil and not necessarily on the same site to prevent risk of possible future fungal infection. (there are sites close at hand where this replacement could be planted).


Arboricultural Officer.

