

**Planning Officer:** Amber Willard

**Planning Application Ref:** FG/109/18/T

**Location:** Greystoke Manor Care Home, Church Lane, Ferring

**Description of works:** Crown thin 1No. Evergreen Oak by 30%

**Reasons Given:** Reduce weight and allow more natural light filtration

**Comments on Application:**

|                      |                      |                           |                      |             |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| <b>Holm oak (x2)</b> | <i>Quercus ilex.</i> | Group Height: Approx. 12m | Average Spread: 4.5m | Age: Mature |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------|

- These two trees share a crown profile and by virtue of their size contribute to the high canopy locally. They appear to be in fair condition despite their exposure and slightly erratic form – a probable legacy of large neighbouring trees and recent development to the north.
- They are clearly visible from the public highway and neighbouring properties.
- Individually and collectively they have high amenity value and being of mature age should be subject to careful management.

**Conclusions:**

- Crown thinning work is seldom necessary to maintain tree health and improvements in ambient light levels are typically short-term. Furthermore, the extent proposed (30%) could allow winds to exert damaging loading forces on otherwise protected stem and branch unions.
- These trees are a significant feature in the local landscape and appear to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would elevate the risk of damage during inclement weather. As a consequence there would be excessive reduction of their landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

**Recommendations:**

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team