

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: FG/180/18/T

Location: Mulberry, Church Lane, Ferring, BN12 5HN

Description of works: Height reduction by 1.5m and a lateral canopy reduction of 1.5m and 10% thin to 1No. Ilex Oak tree

Reasons Given: To limit influence over property and achieve satisfactory clearance from built structures

Comments on Application:

Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Height: Approx.20m Average spread: 8m Age class: Mature

- This large tree appears to be outwardly healthy and stable with an attractive crown profile, despite past reduction work from which it has 'grown on' well.
- It grows at the front of the property and is prominent on the skyline from all aspects and can be seen from numerous dwellings and publicly accessible land.
- There is minor interference with the adjacent property's garage from small branches.

Conclusions:

- This important tree requires careful management that respects its age and contribution to the character of the area.
- Although no compelling reason for either operation exists, I can sympathise with the desire to repeat some light 'containment pruning'. If the work is undertaken to a high standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the tree's long-term vitality and visual amenity.
- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds as it seeks to maintain reasonable enjoyment of the property with respect to natural tree form and is consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, 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.
- The removal of crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to establishing '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 mid to late winter (January/February). The crown reduction work proposed must only be undertaken during this period.

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

