

Planning Officer: Harry Chalk

Planning Application Ref: FG/207/21/T

Location: 258 Goring Way, Ferring, BN12 5BZ

Description of works: 1 no. holm oak tree (T1) - Reduce height by approx. 1m to leave min top height 14m; reduce radial spread on West aspect by approx. 1m to leave minimum of 5m when measured from the centre of main stem; reduce radial spread on East aspect by approx. 2m to leave a minimum of 8m. when measured from measured of main stem.

Reasons given: Containment - to ensure adequate clearance of property

Comments on Application:

Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Approx. height: 15m Average radial spread: 8m Age class: Mature

- I have considered this application by means of a desktop review, using the information and plans submitted as well as online resources. Previous consideration from site and familiarity with surrounding areas provides further insight to the proposal.

Comments (extract) from 22nd September 2021 - application reference: FG/122/21/T

- *Outwardly and from a distance this tree appears to be healthy and stable with an attractive crown profile. The limb framework is asymmetric (strong influence of prevailing wind?) and there is a slight horizontal separation of the profile on its east aspect, which seems indicative of heavy, low arching and ultimately pendulous limbs/branches - over the neighbouring property (256).*
- *The tree is prominent and can be clearly seen from numerous residential properties and to users of the busy public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, it has high public amenity value. It dominates the front/side aspects of both 256 & 258 and seasonal nuisance for those dwellings can be regarded as moderate-high.*

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds. This is a high-profile specimen tree of significant public and visual amenity. It is to be carefully pruned to maintain reasonable enjoyment of residential property and with respect for natural tree form.
- If the work is undertaken to a high standard and at the right time, then the tree should be able to remain a long-term visually interesting feature in the local landscape.

Recommendation:

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

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

Part a) 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

Part b) 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 tree's 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

Advisory:

- Although holm oak may respond with vigour to hard pruning, they have a poor tolerance of such work and long-term vitality can be severely affected. The optimum time to prune is during mid to late winter (January or February).

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

