

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: FG/25/19/T

Location: 4 Oaklands, Ferring, BN12 5GE

Description of works: Reduce crown by 1.5m & crown lift lower canopy to 5m above highway to 1 No. holm oak tree.

Reasons Given: To satisfy requirements of a 5-year maintenance plan.

Comments on Application:

Holm oak / <i>Quercus ilex</i>	Approx. height: 12m	Average spread: 4.5m	Age class: Mature
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- Outwardly it appears to be in a fine physiological state and structurally sound despite the slight contortion/compression of its three main stems. It is prominent roadside and so highly visible from nearby properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). It makes a notable contribution to the character of the area.
- It has previously been the subject of crown reduction work, the most recent consent having been granted in February 2016 which seems to correlate with the observed extent of new growth from past pruning points.
- Overhead clearance above the public footway, carriageway and residential parking area is adequate at this time.

Conclusions:

- There is insufficient recovery of canopy volume since the last major pruning event. As such, to repeat the operation at this time would place this tree under undue stress and may negatively affect its ongoing health and vitality.
- The work proposed is not justified on arboricultural grounds or by the reason given. This is a tree of significant visual amenity and so should be subject to especially careful management.

Recommendations:

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team