

P. 2100 under FG/32/17/17.

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL
TECHNICAL SUPPORT

24 MAY 2017

ACTION:

2D

Arun District Council,
Maltravers Road,
Littlehampton, W.Sussex,
BN17 5LF.

W.J.Hobbs,
11a, The Grove,
Ferring, W.Sussex,
BN12 5JA.

DECISION NOTICE. FG/32/17/17. ANDREW WOOD.

Andrew.

What on earth are you up to? On 16th Mar 2017 your 'tree expert' advised you on-line. He AGREED with the pruning request, but NOT with the limb refusal. (He described the tree as 'SQUAT'. Do look at the photos I enclose, you may then wonder about his perception

Photo 1. I have placed a piece of timber there cut to exactly 2metres to assist with measurements. Photo 2. looking south shows the SQUAT tree towering over the house in Brook Lane. In December 2016 R.J.Perring M.A.M.C.I.M.D. from the Planning Inspectorate remarked that the top of the tree could be seen from both Brook Lane and Barbary Lane. "regarding tree limb in question this shows signs of rot. I am in no doubt that these matters are some concern to the Appellant and at least one of his neighbours. I that particularly as the tree grows next to the Highway and Property" (note. there are two young children opposite confined to playing in their rear garden). On 10th March 2015 Ross Devill-Spooner reported to me in writing "The Oak Tree shows signs of decay in trunk and roots. Also a large tear-wound on West limb which has rot forming. The trunk has formed Callus growth but rot is very soft resulting in loss of intergal strength. Concern for owner with being so close to neighbouring properties and Telephone cables. Note. He used a ladder to view closely) So now. Did your nameless 'tree-expert' paid from Council Tax funds/ On which exact day did he inspect and what apparatus did he use for the height factor/ There is you see a private C.C.T.V. camera that we will use see exactly. Please tell me why he did not call me. Did he just trespass? Photo 3. looks North to the end of The Grove. Notice, that to allow vehicles to turn, there is a circular built-up mound, flowers and a new sapling, which when blossoms will indeed be a 'feature' of The Grove. All of this was paid for privately by the residents. Also the up-keep!

The Leader Of Arun Council came to see me in 2015. She noticed the 'spread' and asked "did I not think that created a larger than need-be surface? I explained that I had put aside a sum to fell this dangerous tree. This I would need to use --and then what? Let me explain. I am 87yrs. and my funds are very, very, limited. Later when I took Legal Advice He agreed with the 'Dangerous Tree' signs that I had erected on my property but advised me that I should deal with that which had been pointed out to me! and should there be any refusal would firmly place the onus on Arun Council. Then I would be able to sleep of a night. This is now the position. Now for reasons known to yourself you decided to ignore your paid-for experts advice and did in deed refuse. This does seem to be strange and either WILFUL, INCOMPETENCE or ????

I have supplied copies of this letter to the Leader Of The Council and my local Councillor. You in turn should inform your Legal Dept. and listen to their advice on how to handle the Press!

W.J.Hobbs.











Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Town & Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England)
Regulations 2012

**Application for Works to Tree(s) on trees subject to a Tree
 Preservation Order (TPO)**

DECISION NOTICE

Application Ref: FG/32/17/T

1 To Addressee

Mr W Hobbs
 11A The Grove
 Ferring
 West Sussex
 BN12 5JA

2 Site Address

11A The Grove
 Ferring
 BN12 5JA

3 Description of Development

2.5m crown reduction to 1 No. Oak tree & remove secondary bough.

In pursuance of their powers under this Act and these Regulations the Council **REFUSE**
 consent for the operations described in the application and plan for the reasons stated.

1

The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the health and vitality of the tree.

Case Officer: Zac Denton

Date of Decision:

11 May 2017


 Neil Crowther
 Group Head of Planning

Arun District Council
 The Arun Civic Centre
 Maltravers Road
 Littlehampton
 West Sussex BN17 5LF

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU READ THE NOTES ATTACHED TO THIS DOCUMENT

Arun District Council

Date Inspected: 28th March 2017

Planning Officer: Andrew Wood

Planning Application Ref: FG/32/17/T

Location: 11a The Grove, Ferring

Description of works: 2.5m crown reduction and removal of one secondary limb above road

Applicants Reasons: Routine maintenance to keep tree in check and address perceived safety issue

Comments On Application:Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* Height – 7m Avge Spread – 4m Age – Early-mature

- This tree has been very heavily topped out in the past and this has given it a squat appearance.
- It is a small tree with a crown comprised of regrowth from old pruning wounds.
- The basal decay is not significant and the limb over the road is stunted and has some decay but is not about to fail.

Conclusions:

- As this is not a large tree the chances of limb failure are minimal and I therefore see no justification for the removal of the westward limb above the access road.
- The crown reduction and reshaping of 2.5m will be more than effective in rendering this tree safe.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **APPROVAL** for the 2.5m crown reduction exercise.
- I recommend **REFUSAL** for the requested removal of the secondary bough to the west side.

Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- 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.

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.



Consultant Arboriculturist

SEE PHOTOS

THIS TREE WAS LAST PRUNED
TEN YEARS AGO. FG/23/07/7