

Recommendation Report for Works to Tree(s) on trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO)

REF NO: FG/45/22/T

LOCATION: Corner of Oaklands and Ferring Street
Ferring
BN12 5EG

PROPOSAL: 1 No. Holm Oak tree - Crown reduction to leave height 13.5m and spread 8.5m
and crown lift over road to 5m

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above.
TREES	1 No. Holm Oak Tree at corner of Oaklands & Ferring Street.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	Residential.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	Residential.
None.	

REPRESENTATIONS

Ferring Parish Council - Objection:
Reducing the crown height and spread by 1.5m is acceptable. However, lifting the crown to 5m is excessive and will negatively impact the street scene. A 3.5m lift is preferable. It is noted that work has been carried out with permission in the past.

COMMENTS ON REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED:

Noted.

CONSULTATIONS**CONSULTATION RESPONSES RECEIVED:**

Arun District Council Tree Officer - Conclusion:

The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds. If 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 proposal to reduce overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Recommendation: Consent with conditions.

COMMENTS ON CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

Noted. Condition attached as specified.

POLICY CONTEXT

TPO.
 Conservation Area.
 Built-Up Area Boundary.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES**PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE:**

NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Practice Guidance

POLICY COMMENTARY

The above policies are general and, other than online Planning Policy Guidance under references ID 36-090-20140306 and ID 36-091-20140306, are not specific to trees.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND/OR LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states:
 "If it appears to a Local Planning authority that it is expedient in the interest of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees.... they may for that purpose make an order"

The works to the trees are to be judged having regard to amenity.

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is considered that there are no other material considerations to be weighed in the balance with the Development Plan.

CONCLUSIONS

Following the Tree Officer's comments, the proposed works are recommended for approval subject to the following conditions and informatives.

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

The Council in making a decision should be aware of and take into account any implications that may arise from the Human Rights Act 1998. Under the Act, it is unlawful for a public authority such as Arun District Council to act in a manner, which is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

Consideration has been specifically given to Article 8 (right to respect private and family life) and Article 1 of the First Protocol (protection of property). It is not considered that the recommendation for approval of the grant of permission in this case interferes unreasonably with any local residents' right to respect for their private and family life and home, except insofar as it is necessary to protect the rights and freedoms of others (in this case, the rights of the applicant). The Council is also permitted to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest and the recommendation for approval is considered to be a proportionate response to the submitted application based on the considerations set out in this report.

DUTY UNDER THE EQUALITIES ACT 2010

Duty under the Equalities Act 2010

In assessing this proposal the following impacts have been identified upon those people with the following protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation).

The proposal would have a neutral impact on the protected characteristics.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE CONDITIONALLY

- 1 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.

 Part c) Where crown reduction pruning has occurred previously, then the removal of material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.

 Reasons: In the interest of the tree's continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.
- 2 INFORMATIVE: Although holm oak may respond with vigour to hard pruning (e.g., crown reduction), 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 - February).
- 3 INFORMATIVE: See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter.
- 4 INFORMATIVE: The applicant should note that under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, with only a few exceptions, it is an offence for any person to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild birds while the nest is in use or being built. Birds nest between March and September and therefore removal of dense bushes, ivy or trees or parts of trees etc. during this period could lead to an offence under the act.
- 5 INFORMATIVE: This notice does not give authority to destroy or damage a bat roost or disturb a bat. Bat species are protected under Section 39 of the 1994 Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations (as amended), the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) and the 2000 Countryside and Rights of Way Act. It is illegal to damage or destroy any bat roost, whether occupied or not, or disturb or harm a bat. If you are aware that bats roost in a tree(s) for which work is planned, you should take further advice from Natural England (via the Bat Conservation Trust on 0345 1300228) or an ecological consultant before you start. If bats are discovered during the work, you must stop immediately and contact Natural England before continuing.