

**Planning Officer:** Andrew Wood

**Planning Application Ref:** FG/55/17/T

**Location:** 31 Ferringham Lane, Ferring

**Description of works:** 30% crown thinning to both trees and 5m crown lift to Tree A (south) and 4m to Tree B (north)

**Reasons Given:** Prevent obstruction of footpath and allow more light to percolate through to the property.

**Comments:**

**Tree A – Holm Oak** *Quercus ilex* Height – 9m Av Sprd - 4.5m Age – Early Mature

**Tree B – Holm Oak** *Quercus ilex* Height – 6m Av Sprd - 3.5m Age – Early Mature

- They are part of a linear belt of trees positioned in grass verges outside of properties along this road to the east side of the houses.
- In this instance they are fairly close to the frontage of the house and with an evergreen species such as Holm Oak it will cast shade and block light all year round so I have sympathy for their situation and would support regular cyclic pruning works to keep this situation under control.
- They have both been heavily topped and lopped in the past and regrown full crowns from around old pruning wounds.
- They have a 1.5m to 2m ground clearance to the lowest part of their canopies thus there is around 7m of crown above this for Tree A and 3m for Tree B.
- If we permit a 5m crown lift on Tree A this would leave a 5m trunk with a 'lollipop' crown of 4m and then if we allow every one in three (30%) to be removed (thinned out) then this would leave hardly anything left of the tree.
- Similarly if we permit 4m crown lift on Tree B this would leave a 4m trunk with 'lollipop' crown of 2m and then if we allow every one in three (30%) to be removed (thinned out) then this would leave hardly anything left of the tree.

**Conclusions:**

- These trees have high amenity value in this area and it is important to balance this with a desire to constrain their growth potential.
- The works that have been applied for are excessive and do not comply with BS3998 recommendations so could be harmful to the ongoing health and vitality of these trees.

**Recommendations:**

- I recommend **REFUSAL** of the application - as the works are excessive and unacceptable and do not comply with BS3998 recommendations and would be harmful to the ongoing health and vitality of these trees.

**Advisory:**

- Recommend that the applicant re-submits seeking the following works:-

**Tree A** – Crown lift to achieve a 2.5m ground clearance [1m more than at present]+ crown reduce by 1m overall + thin by a maximum of 15% (equivalent to 1 in every 6 branches being removed).

**Tree B** - Crown lift to achieve a 2.5m ground clearance [1m more than at present]+ thin by a maximum of 15% (equivalent to 1 in every 6 branches being removed).

*Bernie Harverson*

Consultant Arboriculturist