

FROM: Ian Brewster **TO:** James Smith

PLANNING APPLICATION: FG/89/13/T

ADDRESS: 39 Ferringham Lane Ferring BN12 5NB

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Re-pollard 1 No Holm Oak tree by 5m, pollard 2 No Holm Oak trees by 5m, reduce crown by 1 m and crown thin by 10-20% to 1 No Sweet Chestnut tree and reduce east and west side radial spread by 2m to 1 No Beech tree.

INSPECTION DATE:

27th August 2013 (decision is based upon photographs and familiarity of trees and area)

RECOMMENDATION:

Objection ☐ No Objection ☒ Suggested Conditions ☒

Comment ☒ Recommendation ☐ Abate a Nuisance ☐

Tree Replacement ☐ Dead/Dangerous ☐ CA & Amenity Value ☐

Comments:

The Local Parish Council have commented suggesting trees requiring radical reduction should be felled and replaced. The Evergreen Oaks proposed for re-pollarding are however in a healthy condition. They were allowed to be pollarded many years ago and at that time had lost their natural crown shape. 'Pollard' is an extreme and frowned upon style of reduction. It is nowadays regarded as poor practice for urban locations and should not be carried out on mature trees if they have no previous history of harsh pruning/lopping. However the pruning history of the Evergreen Oaks denotes that a re-pollard is required to ensure the continued safety of the pollard points/knuckles. If work is not carried to these trees then it is likely that one of the over-extended limbs from the pollard points will fail to create a large wound. The attachment of other branches from the same knuckle near to the large wound would be compromised leading to the collapse of the knuckle, exposing other knuckles etc...affecting the remaining crown and ultimately leading to the destruction of the entire tree. If preventative pruning can be carried out there will be a temporary loss of foliage for one season's growth. But this will lead to a smaller but safer tree and is the preferred method for managing and retaining good tree cover and where felling and replacement is not recommended at this time.

I would question the need for both a crown thin and reduction of the Sweet Chestnut. Unless the thin is to rid the tree of diseased and crossing branches the thin should not be included with the reduction work. The work to the Evergreen Oak trees and Beech is acceptable. All work should accord with the detail as specified in the application and should accord with the principles of BS3998 (2010). A suggested Condition has been written below;

Condition 1: Crown Reduction of Beech and Sweet Chestnut

- The Crown Reduction must not exceed the removal of branches greater than 1m in length for the Sweet Chestnut and 2m in length for the Beech.
- The pruning cuts should leave substantial side branch growths of at least 1/3rd or greater in diameter to leave their foliage bearing buds intact.
- Pruning cuts must be made flat and smooth, kept as small as possible and cut at an optimum angle to leave the bark branch collar/ridge intact.
- For all live branch removals, wound sizes must not exceed a diameter of 50mm.

REASON

'In order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery in the interests of retaining good health and amenity in accordance with policy GEN7 of the Arun District Local Plan'.

Condition 2: Re-Pollard of three Evergreen Oak trees

- The Crown Reduction must not exceed the removal of branches greater than **5m** in length.
- A lesser amount must be cut to allow **the retention** of the **original lopping points** where multiple branch growth occurs.
- Pruning cuts must be flat and smooth, kept as small as possible and cut at an optimum angle.
- The pruning cuts should leave substantial side branch growths OR **50mm** stubs to be left proud of the original lopping points for healthy regrowth to establish.
- All Pruning cuts for both crown reduction and crown lift operations should not exceed wound sizes of **100mm** in diameter.

REASON

'In order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery in the interests of retaining good health and amenity in accordance with policy GEN7 of the Arun District Local Plan'.

Ian Brewster
Arboriculturist