

Planning Officer: Amber Willard
Planning Application Ref: FP/133/19/T
Location: 4 Lauren Gardens, Bognor Regis, PO22 8EQ
Description of works: Pollard 1no. oak tree by 2m
Reasons Given: Excessive garden overhang

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Approx. height: 7m Average spread: 3.5m Age class: Early mature

- This tree appears to be outwardly healthy and stable. It has a contorted main stem, a probable legacy of its early attempt to escape the shade of companion trees – from which it has emerged with an asymmetric crown profile. It has previously been the subject of severe crown reduction.
- It grows at the rear of the property at the confluence of several gardens and can be seen from neighbouring dwellings but is barely visible from publicly accessible land.

Conclusions:

- This tree has the potential to develop a heavy and congested limb/branch framework if allowed to grow unchecked, such that it may suffer partial failure of the same, long before it reached full maturity. Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining life-span of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.
- While a temporary loss of aesthetic value is inevitable, satisfactory canopy renewal and recovery should occur if the work is undertaken to a high standard and at an appropriate time of year.
- There will be no significant loss of public amenity on completion of the proposed works.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following conditions:

Conditions To Be Applied To Approved Work: -

- The removal of crown 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.
- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late-spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed must only be undertaken during this period.
- 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*

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

