

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner

Planning Application Ref: **FP/134/19/T**

Location: **2A Blakes Road, Felpham**

Description of works: **Re-pollard 1no. holm oak tree by 2 - 2.5m to previous knuckle heads**

Reasons Given: None provided

Comments on Application:

Holm oak *Quercus ilex* Height: Approx. 7m Average Spread: 3.5m Age: Mature

- A twin stemmed, lapsed pollard which has developed a compact rounded crown. It has a history of regular trimming across all aspects, most recently undertaken late-2018.
- It occupies a prominent position to the front of the property and can be seen from a few adjacent properties and the public highway.
- It appears to be in a fine physiological state. It is surrounded by hard surfacing and grows from within a raised brick/stone planter with altered levels concealing buttress root formation. Although of visual interest and an established part of the street scene, it is unlikely to be able to attain its full growth potential and remain in harmony with its surroundings.
- There is a risk to the ongoing health and vitality of such aged trees when undertaking restorative pruning. The retention of some epicormic growth around the crown-break and limb/branch framework is encouraged, to assist the tree's recovery and canopy renewal.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce its overall height and spread with a view to maintaining it at reduced dimensions is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- 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.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following conditions being applied:
Condition To Be Applied to Approved Work: -
- 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.
- 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 mid to late-winter period (January to February). The work proposed must only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

