

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: FP/166/21/T

Location: The Ridings, 4A Wedgwood Road, Felpham PO22 7JF

Description of works: English oak (T1) Remove lowest branch, cutting back to boundary line of 6 Wedgwood Road

Reasons given: To increase light levels to the garden and abate nuisance by encroachment

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from restricted view (rear garden of 6 Wedgwood Road) this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state. It has previously been the subject of crown reduction pruning (the last operation approved January 2019) and consequently slightly diminished, although remains an important constituent of a linear oak group which represents a significant visual amenity.
- The history of crown reduction pruning has limited its influence over surrounding properties and is an adequate form of containment.
- This latest application seeks to remove a large limb, almost back to the main stem. The limb has a rope ligature within a few metres of its attachment to the main stem, becoming occluded, although not obviously to its detriment at this time.

Conclusions:

- Limb removal would ultimately create a large wound near the main stem with potentially serious implications for the tree's long-term health and vitality and would not comply with British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work-Recommendations.
- The tree is a long-established and significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition, despite recent history of frequent crown reduction pruning. The tree surgery proposed in the application would further diminish crown volume potential and could result in a reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team