# Arun District Council

Date Inspected: 31st August 2017

**Planning Officer:** Zac Denton

**Planning Application Ref:** **FP/185/17/T**

**Location :** **28 Kingsmead, Felpham**

**Description of works:** 1 No Holm Oak - deadwood & thin by 30%; reduce crown by 4m & raise the crown by 4m

**Applicants Reasons** Substantial covering of neighbours garden and obstructing vehicle access.

## Comments On Application:

**T1 – Holm Oak** *Quercus ilex* Height = 10m Avge spread = 7m Age = Mature

- This is a medium sized tree that makes a significant impact in the landscape and merits its TPO status.
- As far as I can ascertain it is sound and healthy.
- There is currently a 2m ground clearance.
- This is a squat and spreading tree with a dense evergreen canopy.

## Conclusions:

- I have no problem with the crown lifting to achieve a 4m ground clearance provided that no branches over 100mm in diameter are removed in this process.
- However, if we then allow a height reduction by 4m this will effectively only leave 2m of live crown which will look very strange indeed and would undermine its appearance in the landscape.
- Similarly reducing the sides in by 4m would also be excessive and disfiguring.
- On top of all this work to then allow a thinning exercise would leave nothing recognisable as a tree in the landscape only a 'totem pole'.

## Recommendations:

- I recommend **APPROVAL** for the crown lifting to achieve a 4m ground clearance provided that no branches over 100mm in diameter are removed in this process.
- I recommend **REFUSAL** for the thinning works and crown reduction works requested as they are excessive and would undermine this trees amenity value.
- Deadwood may be removed without reference to the local authority under the exemption clause - for safety reasons.

**Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -**

- 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.***

**ADVISORY:**

I suggest that the applicant re-submits seeking the following:-

- Reduce in height and lateral spread by a maximum of 1.5m.

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist