

Dear Charles

I refer to your email below and our subsequent meeting of 21st February. Please accept my apologies for the delay in writing. I hope my comments below are an acceptable summary of our discussion.

The large holm oak tree at the front of your property appeared to be in a healthy and stable condition. It seems to have responded with vigour to the last episode of significant pruning; a crown reduction. It is growing within the Felpham Conservation Area, as such, a section 211 notice will need to be submitted to the local planning authority (Arun District Council) if there is intention to remove any live growth <https://www.arun.gov.uk/tpo>

Please refer to the guidance notes also to ensure your notice provides the necessary information.

Considering its recent pruning history, a repeat of the pollarding work last undertaken c2016 (planning ref: FP/7/16/TC) will become necessary to ensure it is retained in a state appropriate for its location. To respect the trees natural defences and vitality, it is important that an appropriate frequency of re-pollarding work is adhered to. At this time, I consider a repeat operation to not be in this tree's best interests.

As discussed, the following work specification would have my support and probably be acceptable to our planning department, thus negating any requirement for us to make a Tree Preservation Order:

1. Short-term (present date onwards):
 - 1.1. Remove epicormics growth on main stem, from ground level to 3m height.
 - 1.2. Reduce back branches as necessary to achieve maximum of 1.5m building clearance.
2. Medium to long-term (min.18months from present date)
 - 2.1. Repeat pollarding operation, removing branches (regrowth since last operation) and making final cuts just beyond the established knuckles.

I will ask our in-house arboricultural team to contact you shortly, with a view to providing a no-obligation estimate for undertaking the work detailed above (item 1).

I am not aware of any proven method of discouraging bird activity in trees; this is most likely due to such an intention being either impractical or inappropriate and in some cases illegal. Hastings Borough Council have produced a comprehensive guide on the subject of Bird Control, which you can access via the following link:

<https://www.hastings.gov.uk/environmentalhealth/pestcontrol/birdcontrol/>

I cannot fully endorse their advice nor might they be in a position to do so, as there is no obvious date attributed to the creation of the article and the rules and regulations may have been updated in the meantime.

I am not in a position to venture an opinion on the efficiency of your chimney or whether the tree has a material effect on same.

I hope the above information will be of some assistance.

Kind regards,

Mark

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