

Planning Officer: Hannah Kersley

Planning Application Ref: FP/225/21/T

Location: 2A Blakes Road, Felpham, PO22 7EB

Description of works: Crown reduction of 1no. holm oak tree (T1) by 1m to the height and spread, to leave a finishing height of 8m and spread of 7m

Reasons given: None provided

Comments on Application:

Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Height: 5-10m Radial spread: 0-5m Age: Mature

- I have considered this application by means of a desktop review, using the information and plans submitted as well as online resources. Previous consideration from site and familiarity with surrounding areas provides further insight to the proposal.
- A twin stemmed, lapsed pollard which has developed a compact rounded crown. Approval was given to re-pollard the tree in July 2019 and it is assumed this application seeks to remove only the growth which has since occurred from established 'knuckles'.
- It occupies a prominent position to the front of the property and can be seen from numerous dwellings and the public highway.
- At the time of my last inspection from site (July 2019) it appeared to be in a fine physiological state and is assumed to remain so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary. 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.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce 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.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following condition being applied:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

Part a) 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

Part b) 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.

Part c) 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.

Reasons: In the interest of the tree's 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:

- 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).

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

