

Planning Officer: Hannah Kersley

Planning Application Ref: FP/228/21/T

Location: 11A Outerwyke Avenue, Felpham, PO22 8JH

Description of works: Reduce all limbs on 1no. Turkey oak by 2m to leave 6m

Reasons given: None provided

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Approx. height: 14m Average radial spread: 8m Age class: Mature

- The tree has been incorrectly identified, although it is clear from the description of works and sketch plan which tree is the subject of this proposal.
- Outwardly and from a distance (roadside) this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary. It presents an attractive crown profile seen from numerous properties and by users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, it has high amenity value.
- A long-established tree that grows at the front of the property and close to the dwelling (11A). It dominates half of the front garden and is probably impacting on the fabric of the building. I assume this is the reason for the application although none were given.
- Taken literally, this proposal seeks to reduce all limbs by 2metres; that to be consistent with previous works would involve reducing height and spread. As such, it is important to specify the finished height dimension.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- The work proposal is ambiguous as it does not provide finished measurement of height. If enacted to the same extent as to be applied to crown spread, it would leave a post-pruning height of c12metres and not the stated 6metres. The latter would result in a damaging loss of crown volume and amenity.

Recommendation:

- As it stands, I recommend refusal for this application. However, **I would like the applicant to be invited to agree to a revised work specification** (such as described below) **and as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay.**
- *Prune to reduce overall height and spread on all aspects by no more than 2metres, leaving a minimum finished height of 12metres and radial spread of 6metres.*

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- If the applicant is prepared to agree to this revision, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following condition:

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*

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

