

Planning Officer : Janice Chapman

Planning Application Ref: FP/31/14/T

Location : 2a Blakes Road, Felpham

Description of works: Reduce the crown of 1 no Holm Oak by 2m

Reasons Given: Overhangs footpath and interference with wires; blocks light for owners and neighbour; risk of falling debris in storms

Comments On Application:

T1 Holm Oak Quercus ilex Height – 7m : Avge Spread – 4 to 5m : Age – Semi Mature : Grnd Clear 1.5m

- This is a relatively small tree that is located in a brick retainer probably resulting from levels changes when the property was developed.
- It is a multi-stemmed tree supporting a low and spreading canopy of foliage.
- It has been heavily lopped and topped in the past to constrain growth potential
- Given its lopped and stunted form this tree is extremely unlikely to be at risk of shedding branches from its crown.

Conclusions:

Whilst the periodic lopping and topping of this tree has already become established practice I feel that 2m would be excessive in this instance and would be contrary to BS3998 and sound arboricultural practice having a detrimental impact on the visual amenity value of this tree.

A lesser degree of lopping and topping with varying amounts of material being removed to achieve a balanced effect would be the best course of action here.

Recommendation:

T1 Holm Oak -

I **Object** to the crown reduction by 2m for the reasons stated above and recommend **refusal** of these works.

However, I would **Approve** them if the owner is prepared to amend the application to read as follows:-

- ***Reduce in height by a maximum of 1m.***
- ***Reduce the lateral spread all round by 1m to 1.5m maximum.***

Condition To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

Where whole branches are to be removed final cuts close to the trunk or branch union are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010 and all shortened branches are to be cut at the correct angle (see also 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.

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist