Arun District Council

Date Inspected: 2nd May 2014

Planning Officer : Simon Davis

Planning Application Ref: FP/45/14/TC

Location : 10 Vicarage Lane, Felpham

Description of works: 1 x Holm Oak – crown lift to 5 metres, removal of the hanging branches, crown thin by 20% + crown reduction all round by 2.5m

Applicants Reasons The tree is too large for the garden and causing intense shading of the garden and damage to the boundary wall and low overhang of neighbours garden

Comments On Notification:

Holm Oak *Quercus ilex* (T1 on the submitted plan)

Est Height = 16m Avge Rad Spread = 9m Age = Mature Grd Clear 1m

- I was able to gain access to the garden even though the owner was not at home and I also viewed it from Waterloo Court
- The boundary wall has been cracked by the effects of trunk expansion over time and the wall bows out towards the car park in Waterloo Court – this is a safety issue and will need to be repaired fairly soon – the wall will need to be removed and at this time the area immediately behind it can be assessed to see how best this might be achieved whilst retaining the tree and the new wall in harmony in future – this might typically involve reinforced lintels and leaving a gap for the trunk to expand into.
- This tree is highly visible from some distance away and is a very fine specimen on high amenity value and given its age historic value in the Conservation Area.
- I could not detect a split in the trunk as the applicant claims but there is a self-contained and compartmentalised cavity which does not affect stability or compromise the safety of the tree.
- There has been some branch loss in storms over the years and jagged wounds will need tidying.
- Crown lifting this tree to 5m is fine as is removing the hanging branches which grow down through this zone to provide good garden and wall clearances and increase light percolation below the canopy.
- Thinning by 20% would be a futile exercise as all of the live growth is on the ends of the branches so thinning would involve removal of 1 in 5 whole branches which would be damaging to the ongoing health and vitality of this tree.
- A 2.5m reduction will destroy this tree considerable amenity value and is not necessary as there are no safety issues which would merit such works – by nature this trees live growth is on the ends of branches and this operation would just leave a trunk and 'scaffold' framework with stumps and stubs and very little living foliage thus temporarily destroying its amenity value.

Conclusions:

It is my opinion that the high visual amenity value of this historic tree in the Conservation Area is threatened by the proposed works and I would therefore recommend that a TPO should be made to prevent all but the crown lifting works and exercise control over the degree of any future pruning works that may be proposed.

Recommendations:

I raise **Objection** to the proposed pruning of this tree as notified and recommend it is TPO'd to protect it.

A TEMPO form has been completed and is attached to this report.

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist