

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date inspected: 5 July 2022

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley

Reference: FP/83/22/T

Location: 23 Hedgerow Close, Felpham, PO22 8BP

Proposal: 1no. oak tree (T1) reduce large horizontal structure limb facing North by 3m leaving limb approx. 3m. 1no. ash tree (T2) cut back to previous pruning points on North side of canopy to leave height approx. 18m and spread approx. 14m

Reasons given: 1. To reduce risk of limb failure 2. Excessive shading

Comments on Application:

T1 Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

T2 Common ash / *Fraxinus excelsior* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

Outwardly and with restricted view from the applicant's garden, these trees appear to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary.

T1 has a lateral spread from boundary fence line of approximately 9metres. The crown is complex in form but presents an attractive profile.

T2 has previously been the subject of whole crown reduction pruning form which it appears to have grown uniformly. Such work will need to be repeated throughout the remaining lifespan of this tree, to achieve a degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.

These are long-established trees given adequate room during relatively recent development, to be purposefully retained in harmony with surroundings. They add a mature outlook, are dominant in the local landscape being highly visible from numerous properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway).

Conclusions:

T1 Oak - A reduction of low-crown spread to improve garden conditions is reasonable although not to the extent proposed. Pruning to leave only 3metres would result in large wounds being formed and is potentially harmful to long-term health. I do not support this element of the proposal.

T2 Ash – The work proposal is justified on arboricultural grounds. 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:

As it stands, I am unable to support this application. I **would like the applicant to be invited to agree to a revised proposal for lesser works on T1 Oak** (such as described below) **as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay.** Such work would improve conditions whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:

T1 Oak – Reduce low-crown spread on North aspect only by approximately 2metres, to leave 7metres when measured from garden boundary fence line.

If the applicant agrees to the above proposal, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

Condition 1

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) T2 Ash - 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 interests of the trees' 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 health and vitality of trees can be adversely affected by significant pruning. The optimum time for pruning these oak and ash is during the late spring to summer period (May to August).

We are obliged to advise that where trees are situated on land not owned by the applicant the granting of consent by this authority does not by association give permission to undertake such works that require access onto/from that land. Nor does it permit any work to take place beyond the boundary of the applicant's property. Additional permission must first be obtained from the land/tree owner.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer

Environment and Climate Change

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

