

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: FP/88/20/T

Location: Tavistock Lodge, 15 Vicarage Lane, Felpham, PO22 7DZ

Description of works: Fell 1no. Turkey oak tree

Reason given: Health and safety

Comments on Application:

Turkey oak / *Quercus cerris* Height: 15-20m Spread: 0-5m Age class: Mature

- The applicant has submitted an Arboricultural Report from Beechdown Arboriculture Ltd in support of this application. This demonstrates thorough investigation of the tree's physiological state and structural integrity and is comprehensive in its analysis and recommendations.
- A tree that outwardly suggests it is of high amenity value demands any substantive work proposal be properly justified.
- This is a large tree growing close to the garden boundary and is dominant over the rear of 2a Blakes Road. Outwardly and from a distance this tree appeared to be in a fine physiological state and structurally sound. Close inspection from ground level suggests extensive decay and cavity formation at around mid-height may have brought it into a hazardous state. A climbed inspection (as undertaken by Beechdown Arboriculture Ltd) was necessary to adequately evaluate the extent and nature of that decay and cavities. The subsequent report provides us with confidence that the tree in current form presents an unacceptable level of risk for its location.
- Extensive crown reduction (pollarding) to reduce risk of failure to an acceptable level whilst retaining the tree would have to be repeated on a regular basis. This operation would diminish the trees visual contribution such that it would have negligible public amenity value whilst incurring an ongoing cost for the parties concerned.

Conclusion:

- The work proposed is necessary to mitigate an established high risk of structural failure with potentially catastrophic consequences - so is justified on arboricultural grounds.

Recommendation:

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

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- Once the tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 4metres.

This is to be of Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the Turkey oak tree.

The species shall be selected from the following: -

Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*

Field maple *Acer campestre*

Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*

- **Reasons:** To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team