

Planning Officer : Damian Sullivan

Planning Application Ref: LU/108/14/TC

Location : 1 Church Street, Littlehampton

Description of works: Reduce the height and shape over the tops of 1 No Holm Oak; 1 no Sweet Chestnut & 1 no Ash

Applicants Reasons: To constrain their vigorous growth habit

Comments On Application:

T1 Holm Oak Quercus ilex Height – 12m : Radial Crown Spread – 5m : Age – Early Mature

T2 Sweet Chestnut Castanea sativa Height – 6m : Radial Crown Spread – 1.5m : Age – Semi Mature

T1 Holm Oak Quercus ilex Height – 9m : Radial Crown Spread – 2.5m : Age – Semi Mature

- Of the three only the Holm Oak is of any real merit
- The works proposed are a repeat of previous pruning operations as all three trees have been pruned in this fashion in the past.
- Provided that the current pruning works do not exceed the previous pruning points there will be very minimal impact on health and vitality and I would have no objection to same.
- Whilst the Holm Oak would be worthy of a TPO it is not under any threat of removal.

Recommendation:

I **Approve** of the pruning of these three trees as described in the notification and see no reason to apply a TPO in this instance.

Advisory:

- *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 branches which need to be shortened are to be cut at the correct angle and adjacent to a live bud or lateral as defined and illustrated in BS3998:2010.*
- *Attention is drawn to the fact that some trees could provide suitable habitat for bird nesting (ivy and cavities) and bat roosting (ivy, branch cracks and cavities) and this might at certain times of year influence and possibly restrict the form of management which can be applied. Given the legal constraints imposed by the Habitat Regulations and the Wildlife and Countryside Act and the fact that it is a criminal offence to disturb or destroy nest sites, this may necessitate expert ecological advice being sought before proceeding with these recommendations. As a minimum requirement it will be necessary for the appointed Tree Contractor to climb the trees and verify that there are no birds nesting or bats present in splits; holes and cavities prior to commencement of works.*

Reasons:-

In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current arboricultural industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

