

Planning Officer : Damian Sullivan

Planning Application Ref: LU/36/14/T

Location : Manor House, Church Street, Littlehampton

Description of works:

- T1 Holm Oak – crown lift to 4m on two side only
- T2 Holly – Reduce lateral spread over drive access by 0.5m
- T3 Robinia – remove deadwood
- T8 Griselinia – crown lift to 4m from ground level over drive access
- T11 Holm Oak – Prune to clear around base

Applicants Reasons : To carry out works highlighted in the LTCouncil tree safety audit

Comment On Application: This work comes under the heading of good husbandry and maintenance

T1 Holm Oak / *Quercus ilex* Height – 12m : Avge Spread – 7m : Age – Early Mature

- This tree has a low branching habit which now restricts the access for higher sided vehicles using the ramp and drive

T2 Holly / *Ilex Aquifolium* Height – 5m : Avge Spread – 3m : Age – Early Mature

- This tree shows significant dieback and low crown density
- Unfortunately the most healthy part of the crown needs to be removed to facilitate access
- This tree will probably need to be removed and replaced on the next round of works

T3 False Acacia / *Robinia pseudoacacia* Height – 12m : Avge Spread – 5m : Age – Mature

- This tree shows significant dieback and contains a lot of deadwood
- Its position above the College building and access drive gives me cause for concern in view of the large decaying cavity and split that I saw just below the main fork – these trees are brittle at the best of times and with this significant defect I would class this tree as dangerous - this cannot be rectified by pruning and I therefore recommend removal for safety reasons and replacement planting – as this is not what was requested in order to facilitate a speedy resolution I recommend that they submit a 5 day notification of intent to remove this tree.

T8 Griselinia / *Griselinia littoralis* Height – 5m : Avge Spread – 5m over drive only : Age – Mature

- This tree is suppressed by others around it and has been forced to grow out in one direction above the access drive
- The crown lifting will remove the majority of the crown so some reshaping over the top and other sides will be necessary

T11 Holm Oak / *Quercus ilex* Height – 8m : Avge Spread – 5m : Age – Mature

- The basal growth is a safety issue overhanging the footpath and road access to car park

N.B. With regards to trees T1 & T11 I am surprised that they have not also sought pruning to clear back from the College roof as this must be issue in high winds with branches hitting the building – perhaps this can be the subject of a separate application at a later date

Conclusions :

T1 Holm Oak – I have no objection to the works that have been applied for as this will provide for safe access of vehicles to the site – wherever possible they should remove whole ‘dropper’ or subsidiary branches from the undersides of main limbs and not shorten back to leave stumpy ends.

T2 Holly – I have no objection to the works that have been applied for as this will provide for safe access of vehicles to the site

T3 False Acacia – no objection to deadwooding but it will be a futile exercise as this will still leave this tree in a dangerous condition – advise removal on safety grounds

T8 Griselinia - I have no objection to the works that have been applied for as this will provide for safe access of vehicles to the site BUT I would like them to also shape the tree over after the crown lifting to improve its balance and overall appearance

T11 Holm Oak - I have no objection to the works that have been applied for as this will provide for safe access of pedestrians to the site

Recommendation:

I agree with the principles of pruning for the reasons stated in the application and recommend that they are **Approved** as follows:-

T1 Holm Oak

- Crown lift to provide a 4m ground clearance on the west side and also above the ramp wherever possible removing whole small diameter ‘dropper’ branches from the undersides of main laterals – do not shorten limbs to leave stumps

T2 Holly

- Trim back lateral overhang of the access drive by up to 0.5m making final cuts adjacent to living growth points

T3 False Acacia – on receipt of a written 5 day notification

- Fell to ground level in a controlled manner and grind out the stump.
- Plant a replacement tree at or about the same location
- To be either False Acacia or Tulip Tree or Liquidambar at Standard Nursery Stock size (8to10ft tall & 8-10cm girth) to be planted within one year of the date of tree removal.

T8 Griselinia

- Crown lift to provide a 4m ground clearance over the access drive
- Reshape and tidy remainder of crown to improve balance and form

T11 Holm Oak

- Remove all basal suckers and also epicormics on trunk to a height of 2.5m from ground

Conditions: 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. I also recommend that a copy of the Figure 2 diagram and pruning advice sheet are sent out with the consent letter.



Consultant Arboriculturist