Arun District Council

Date Inspected: 23rd November 2017

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: **M/106/17/T**

Location : **rear of 72 Silver Birch Drive, Middleton on Sea**

Description of works: Various surgery to 1 No Oak tree

Applicants Reasons Overhangs garden with deadwood and live branch overhang of same.

Comments On Application:

3 x Pedunculate Oaks *Quercus robur* Avge Height = 15m Avge spread = 7m Age = Mature

- These trees are positioned in the paddock beside this property and the three trees combine to appear as one crown with multiple stems. This development has been approved with these trees positioned far too close with the inevitable consequence that they dominate and cause problems and now there is 'pressure to prune or fell'.
- I have to sympathise with the owners of No 72 as this is not an acceptable situation.
- They do not need Council approval to remove the deadwood and dead limbs from these trees.
- These are not dense canopied trees and thinning will not achieve any benefit and will actually make matters worse because the tree will very quickly take advantage of the light within the crown to promote new and denser regrowth into this zone.
- Removal of all epicormic growth is acceptable.
- Reduction of the branches that grow towards the house is a sensible course of action and establishing a 2m clearance from the building line is acceptable.

Conclusions:

- Most of the proposed works will reduce the nuisance factors associated with these trees.
- I would not object to this as it will not have an adverse impact on the vigour and vitality or visual amenity value of these trees and will significantly improve matters for the owners of No 72.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **APPROVAL** for the pruning of these trees as follows:-
    1. Reduce lateral spread on the east die ONLY towards the house in order to establish a 2m clearance from the building line.
    2. Remove all epicormic growth.
- I recommend **REFUSAL** for the thinning of crowns by 20%.

Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- 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.

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.***

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist