

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: M/111/18/T

Location: Hadley Close, Middleton on Sea, PO22 6PQ

Description of works: 1x Holm Oak - Crown lift by 6m, remove deadwood, crown reduction by 2-4m. 1x Box Elder - Crown lift 5m, remove boundary overhang by 2m, crown reduce by removing between 1-2m of branch end length to reshape and re-balance the crown

Reasons Given: TA – Main stem decay event TB – Highway maintenance

Comments on Application:

TA Holm oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Height: Approx. 18m	Average spread: 7m	Age class: Mature
TB Box elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Height: Approx. 8m	Average spread: 4m	Age class: Mature

- Both trees appear to be healthy and stable with attractive crown profiles. They encroach low into the carriageway/footway and neighbouring property.
- TA is a large and prominent roadside tree. Its main stem has a number of active and redundant fungal brackets between buttress roots and all around the stem base. An accumulation of recently developed brackets have emerged between the main and subsidiary stem.
- The extent of decay has not been confirmed, although it is; identifiable, established, ongoing and around the stem – so is significant for hazard assessment. The tree is large and occupies a high-risk target area. It has a relatively unmodified crown with established low limbs and branches, although there is some discreet evidence of height reduction on several upper scaffold limbs/branches.
- TB is at the far end of the close in a narrow verge. It has spreading form and not an ideal tree-type for such a confined location. Some form of 'containment pruning' was a foreseeable requirement.
- The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require permission.
- These are fine examples of their type and visible from the adjacent public highway and neighbouring properties; thereby providing a notable visual amenity.

Conclusions:

- TA - The work proposed is necessary to mitigate risk of structural failure and so 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.
- TB - The work proposed is justified and if undertaken to a high standard will not incur a noteworthy loss of amenity value to the surrounding area.

Recommendations:

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

Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- 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

- 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.
- TA - 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.*

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team