

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: M/126/18/T

Location: 46 Silver Birch Drive, Middleton on Sea, PO22 6SJ

Description of works: Prune back branches overhanging property to boundary line, to 1 No Oak tree

Reasons Given: Potential for excessive garden overhang/interference with shed

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur*

Height: Approx.14m

Average spread: 8m

Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance it appears to be in a fine physiological state with a relatively unmodified and attractive crown profile.
- It grows at the rear of the property in public parkland/open space and is a long-established boundary feature. It can be seen from neighbouring dwellings and publicly accessible land.
- The applicant proposes the reduction of branches back to the property boundary line.
- There is a singular, prominent low limb growing directly into the garden and over the shed. It has a number of suitable branch junctions back to which it could be successfully pruned and achieve adequate clearance.

Conclusions:

- The work proposal as described is unnecessarily severe and would result in relatively large wound sizes, exceeding the requirements of British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations.
- The intention is reasonable and some work would be acceptable, where it seeks to maintain reasonable enjoyment of the garden with respect to natural tree form.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application in its current form.

Advisory:

- I would like to see the applicant submit a revised specification seeking lesser work, such as detailed below, which would seem to address their concerns whilst fully respecting the ongoing health and vitality of the tree:
 - Reduce length of prominent low limb by no more than 2.5m, positioning final cut at strong branch junctions, leaving a wound no greater than 60mm diameter.

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- If the applicant is prepared to re-submit in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following conditions:

Conditions To Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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.

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

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

