

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: P/120/20/T

Location: 32 Kings Drive, Pagham, PO21 4PZ

Description of works: Thin crown of 1no. oak tree by 30%, remove epicormic growth from trunk to a height of 3 metres & remove deadwood

Reasons given: Excessive shading

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from distance (roadside) this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state. It has been the subject of crown reduction pruning, last undertaken c2011 – from which it has responded well and presents an attractive profile.
- It is highly visible from surrounding residential dwellings and in large part to highway users (footway and carriageway). As such, it has public amenity value.
- Low level epicormic growth was visible about the crown-break, although the majority of crown does not appear congested or in need of thinning.
- The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require consent from the local planning authority.
- The tree's crown periphery is approximately 8metres due NW from the nearest dwelling (21 Regis Avenue)

Conclusions:

- The removal of small branches (epicormic growth) from the main stem to a height of 3metres is acceptable.
- *Crown thinning* work is not seen to be in the best interest of the tree and has not been justified on arboricultural grounds. In any case, such work rarely provides a benefit to the tree and often only a short-term increase in light levels.
- I do not accept that shading is excessive or impacting substantially on the enjoyment of any dwelling or garden.

Recommendations:

- As it stands, I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.
- **I would like the applicant to be invited to agree to a revised proposal for lesser works** (by removing the crown thin 30% element) as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay.

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- If the applicant agrees to this revision, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- Part a) 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
- Part b) 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 tree's 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

