

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: P/94/17/T

Location : 32 Kings Drive, Bognor

Description of works: Reduce crown of 1 No Oak by 1.5m and crown thin by 20% and remove deadwood.

Applicants Reasons Good husbandry.

Comments On Application:

Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* Height: 8m AvgeSprd: 6m Age: Semi mature

- Situated in the rear garden of No 32 but in a corner of the plot such that its branches overhang at least one other property.
- The applicant is the not the owner of the tree but a neighbour living at 21 Regis Avenue.
- I can understand the desire to keep this trees growth habit under control but the amount of works being sought would be too much in one pruning event and harmful to its visual amenity value in the landscape leaving stubs devoid of foliage thus not complying with BS3998 recommendations.
- Just thinning the tree would be acceptable but to thin and reduce in one go would be excessive.

Conclusions:

- This tree is visually significant in the landscape and the level of pruning needs to be less severe in nature – cutting off no more than 0.5m overall as opposed to the 1.5m which has been requested.
- Alternatively they could forget about crown reduction this time around and just thin the tree by 20% as proposed – but doing both would be unacceptable.
- Removal of deadwood does not require the Councils approval.

Recommendations:

- I recommend a split decision on this application as follows:-
- I recommend **APPROVAL** for thinning the crown by 20% - provided that no branches over 40mm in diameter are removed in the process.
- I recommend REFUSAL for crown reduction by 1.5m.

ADVISORY:

Whilst the Council can agree to some works on this tree it does not mean that the applicant may go ahead with it – as the tree is not in their ownership and they will first need the permission of the owner of the tree before they do any works. IF the owner refuses then they may not undertake any tree works.

Bernie Harverson

Consultant Arboriculturist