

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe
Planning Application Ref: R/237/19/T
Location: 4 Ilex Close, Rustington, BN16 2RX
Description of works: Re-pollard by 2-3m 1no. Ilex tree
Reasons Given: Cyclical maintenance

Comments on Application:

Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Approx. height: 12m Average spread: 5m Age class: Mature

- This tree appears outwardly to be in a fine physiological state and structurally sound. It is prominent all along driveway approach to the main building and dominates its immediate surroundings.
- Although of heavily modified form (severe truncation of main stem and limb framework) it is an aged tree with some character and large enough to be visible from surrounding properties and by users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). As such it has some amenity value.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining life-span of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.

Conclusions:

- If the work is undertaken to a good standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an unduly adverse effect on the tree's long-term vitality.
- The proposal to reduce its overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, 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.
- Part c) 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.
- Part d) The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the mid to late-winter period (January to February). The work proposed must only be undertaken during this period.

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

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

