

Planning Officer: Harry Chalk

Planning Application Ref: R/3/22/T

Location: 7 The Oaks, Rustington, BN16 2UP

Description of works: 1no. *Ilex* oak (T1) - Height reduction from 9m to 4.5m and removal of Easterly leaning bough

Reasons given: Health and safety

Comments on Application:

Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Height: 5-10m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance it appears to be in a fine physiological state, having responded with vigour to substantial past pruning.
- It is discreetly located within the expansive gardens of the property, although by virtue of its size and evergreen foliage provides visual amenity when viewed from neighbouring property and far end of the close.
- Close inspection from within the garden reveals the crown to be supported on a cluster of eight large stems. These have been severely truncated at around 7-8m ht. It has been the subject of regular crown reduction resulting in a dense, compact crown.
- There are multiple established and ongoing decay events, evidenced by the proliferation of large perennial fungal brackets (*Ganoderma* sp.) and a deep open cavity at the base.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is necessary to mitigate risk of catastrophic structural failure and so justified on arboricultural grounds.
- While a loss of aesthetic value and harm to ongoing health and vitality is inevitable, satisfactory canopy renewal and recovery is most likely to occur if the work is undertaken to a high standard and at an appropriate time of year.

Recommendation:

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

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- Where scaffold limbs and stems are to be shortened back, the final cuts are to be made at an angle that keeps wound size to absolute minimum (usually perpendicular to direction of growth).

Reasons: In the interest of the tree's continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

Advisory:

- Although holm oak may respond with vigour to hard pruning (as proposed) they have a poor tolerance of such work and long-term vitality can be severely affected. The optimum time to prune is during the mid to late winter period (January to February).

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace