

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: R/8/18/T

Location: 69 Sea Avenue, Rustington

Description of works: 1.5m Crown Reduction to 1No. English oak

Reasons Given: To reduce extent of property and carriageway overhang

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* Height: Approx. 12m Average Spread: 7m Age: Early-mature

- This tree has exceptionally fine form; having a uniform limb framework of surprisingly good symmetry despite its exposure to coastal conditions. It appears to be in good health.
- It occupies a prominent roadside position and therefore highly visible to vehicle and pedestrian traffic accessing the estate and beachfront.
- There is no direct (or short-term risk of passive) contact with built structures; reasonable clearance of both buildings and carriageway exist at this time.
- Low branches on all aspects may become intolerable as they obstruct reasonable use of the driveways and property frontages.
- This tree has potential to become much larger, but is at a distance from the residential dwelling that is likely to be harmonious and complimentary throughout its anticipated lifespan if managed sympathetically and without recourse to overall crown reduction.

Conclusions:

- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality, in conflict with policy GEN7 of the Arun District Local Plan.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Advisory:

- Were the applicant to re-submit with the following work specification; this would be acceptable and address the developing nuisance associated with low branches.
 - Crown lift by removing small branches (<50mm diameter) on all aspects to achieve a maximum of 3metres overhead clearance.
 - Reduce back small branches (<50mm diameter) on West aspect as necessary, to achieve a maximum of 5.5m clearance above carriageway.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team