

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: WA/18/17/T

Location : Rowan House, 7 Holly Tree Grove, Walberton

Description of works: 2m to 3m height and overall crown reduction to 1 No English Oak on north, east and west sides plus remove crossing and rubbing branches.

Applicants Reasons None provided – assume size control and shading issues + childrens safety

Comments On Application:

Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* Height = 16m Avge spread = 6m Age = Early Mature

- This is a medium sized tree located in the rear garden and close to the boundary with an adjacent school so I can understand the owners concerns over safety and exercising some control over its future growth habit.
- CM Treecare have advised on the works specification and submitted the application on behalf of the trees owners.
- This is a good healthy specimen Oak tree of high amenity value and significance in the landscape.

Conclusions:

- The amount of height reduction is acceptable provided that no stubs are left.
- The amount of lateral spread reduction that has been requested exceeds the recommendations of BS3998 and would in my opinion be detrimental to the ongoing health and vitality of the tree and undermine its visual amenity value in the landscape.
- The removal of crossing and rubbing branches is a very contentious matter because whilst rubbing branches might eventually lead to a failure at the contact point the risk of this ever happening has to be weighed against the fact that removal of one of each pair of branches might leave a large hole in the canopy and change the whole dynamic of the tree as it reacts to wind pressures thus causing more harm than good.

Recommendations:

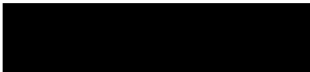
- I raise **NO OBJECTION** to the reduction in crown height by 2m to 3m overall for the reasons stated above subject to the standard pruning Conditions being applied.
- I raise **OBJECTION** to the shortening of the lateral branches by 2m to 3m and recommend that the applicant amends or re-submits seeking **1m to 1.5m reduction in their length.**
- Some removal of crossing and rubbing branches may be permitted but this can only be done under the direct supervision of the Arun DC Tree Officer [subject to agreeing on an appropriate day/date/time for this to take place]

Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- 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 and **MUST NOT exceed 100mm diameter.**
- 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 and **MUST NOT exceed 75mm diameter.**
- Removal of crossing and rubbing branches may be permitted but such work may only be carried out under the direct supervision of the Arun DC Tree Officer and his decision on which branches may or may not be removed is final. All open wounds are to be painted with 'Lac Balsam' wound sealant.

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.**


Consultant Arboriculturist