

Planning Officer: Hannah Kersley

Planning Application Ref: Y/162/21/T

Location: Little Oaks, Bilsham Road, Yapton, BN18 0JB

Description of works: Crown reduction of 1no. oak tree by 2m to leave height 13m and spread 11m

Reasons given: Continuation of cyclical pruning regime

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from a distance (roadside) this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary.
- It is prominent at the front of the property and can be clearly seen from numerous residential dwellings and to highway users. As such, it has public amenity value.
- It has been subject to heavy crown reduction work previously and has responded with vigour, typical for a healthy example of its type. Repeat operations such as now being asked for will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- While a temporary loss of aesthetic value is inevitable, satisfactory canopy renewal and recovery should 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: -

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.

Reasons: In the interests of the tree's 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***

Advisory:

- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late spring to summer period (May to August).

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

