

Recommendation: **GRANT TPO CONSENT**

Councillor Joanne Thomas

6 **Community Involvement**

This application was publicised in accordance with the Council's Code of Practice for Publicity of Planning Applications approved at minute 207/6/92 (as amended), as a result of which the following publicity was undertaken:

Number of neighbour notification letters sent: 3

Number of site notices: 1

Statutory advertisement: Not applicable.

Number of representations received: 2

Comment	Officer Comment
The Holm Oak under review is situated adjacent to the western end of my front garden. The eastern spread of the tree extends 5 metres over my garden. This tree has had no maintenance for many years and has over extended itself to a point where it has become dangerous. 1 It is damaging my hedge and garden shed roof. 2 The shed gutter is often blocked by acorns and leaves. 3 The area beneath the tree requires continuous maintenance and virtually nothing will grow. 4 In the past it has shed quite large branches. 5 It spreads over the public footpath and possess a hazard to both pedestrians and cyclists. 6 It is not an indigenous species of Hayling Island. Although I am a great lover of trees I do have to agree with the request for its removal.	Comments noted.

i live next door to where this tree is situated. It does not immediately affect me or my property. What I would comment is that the tree must be over 40ft high and at least as much wide as well. It overhangs the path and a bit into the road. Its very messy and is always dropping bits. Just like the firs on the opposite side of the road which also drop an enormous amount of their growth every year. It is a tree which has, in my opinion, outgrown its place of planting. I am pleased to see it will be replaced with a more open and smaller specimen tree.	Comments noted.
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7 **Planning Considerations**

7.1 Having regard to the relevant policies of the development plan it is considered that the main issues arising from this application are:

- Whether the degree of pruning works requested would undermine the amenity value of these trees and whether this could also be harmful to their ongoing health and vitality.

7.2 My inspection related specifically to assessing the proposed works rather than generally inspecting the tree's health and condition in any great detail. I visually inspected the tree from ground level and the following report deals with the relevant issues that have been raised on site, in the application form and from my site observations.

7.3 This application to undertake work to a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order relates to the proposed felling of one Holm Oak.

The tree is a mature specimen located in the south eastern corner of the front garden. The application to fell is made on the grounds that it is decaying, its overall poor structural condition is poor and the combination of defects render it comprised in relation to its size and position and it causes a threat to surrounding structures and the highway.

An Arboricultural report has been submitted to support the application which includes the findings of a Picus test which has been undertaken and which highlights pockets of decay in the main stem.

The Arboricultural Officer agrees with the findings of the Arboricultural Consultant who undertook the report. The tree leans considerably due to the south west winds. The crown shows evidence of severe historical topping of one of its main leaders and lateral branches. There are numerous occluded poor pruning wounds on the stem and throughout the crown. There is also pronounced buttressing and reaction wood evident due to wind stresses.

The canopy of the tree is now extending over the highway and in close proximity to the property. Pruning has been considered however it is agreed that it is becoming too large for its position and would not be reasonable or appropriate to insist on this course of action.

Two letters of support for the felling have been received and no letters of objection.

8 Conclusion

Given its size and position, the Holm Oak is considered to offer public amenity value, however, it is a poor quality specimen due to its overall structural condition. Whilst the Picus results do not render the tree imminently at risk of failure, the decay detected cannot be ignored and is likely to get progressively worse.

Based on the findings of the report and the two letters of support received, it is considered that permission to fell should be granted and a replacement tree be planted at a size which will instantly provide some amenity value in the street scene.

9 RECOMMENDATION:

That the Head of Neighbourhood Support be authorised to **GRANT TPO CONSENT** for application APP/20/00329 subject to the following conditions

- 1 The tree works for which consent is hereby granted shall not be carried out otherwise than in full accordance with all relevant content of BS 3998 (2010).

Reason: In the interests of tree health and safety.

- 2 The tree works for which consent is hereby granted shall be carried out and completed no later than one year from the date of this decision.

Reason: To control the timing of the works.

- 3 By the 31st December 2020; 1 replacement tree is planted. The tree should be a minimum 3m metres tall at the time of planting and should comply with BS3936:Part 1:1992. It should be planted within 1metre of the tree to be felled. The tree species should be:

1. Quercus robur fastigiata koster (Fastigate Oak)

or such other size, species, location or period of time as may be agreed in writing with the Council.

If within a period of three years any tree planted as a replacement is cut down, felled, uprooted, removed, or die, or becomes in the opinion of the Council seriously damaged or defective:

- a) the Council shall be notified as soon as is reasonably practicable; and
- b) another tree of the same species and size shall be planted in the same location at a time agreed in writing with the Council unless the Council agrees to dispense with or vary the requirement.

Reason: To conserve and safeguard the visual amenities of the locality.