

Number of neighbour notification letters sent: 3

Number of site notices: 1

Statutory advertisement: Not applicable.

Number of representations received: 0

Comment	Officer Comment

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 The application relates to two mature Oak trees located within an industrial estate in WaterlooVille. The trees are located within a verge, which lines parking spaces at the end of the road and these trees offer good amenity to the public using the parking area.

Oak (T1): The first of the Oaks is located further east and its main stem is heavily Ivy clad, therefore the basal condition of the tree could not be viewed. There is a minor amount of epicormic growth on the main stem and within the crown there are signs of previous pruning works. There is some amount of deadwood within the canopy, however the tree appears to be displaying normal vigour and vitality. The crown has northern bias towards the northern sector, which extends over the parking bays.

Oak (T2): The westerly Oak's main stem is likewise heavily Ivy clad and its base could not be assessed as to its basal condition as a result. There is a significant amount of epicormic growth on the main stem, as well as some amount of deadwood within its crown. There are signs that the tree has been poorly pruned in the past, resulting in it possessing poor form. Additionally, the tree has been suppressed by the growth of the Oak (T1) to its western sector. The crown appears to be displaying reduced vigour and vitality. Similar to the eastern Oak (T1), the canopy has a bias over the parking bays located to its northern sector.

The original application proposed works to the trees' northern sectors, which were considered excessive. This would have resulted in relatively large wounds at inappropriate pruning points and would have unbalanced the crowns to the opposite sector. Lesser works were negotiated that would still manage the biased northern sectors without causing detriment to their health or their amenity value. The proposed crown lift specified within the application would be considered reasonable cyclical management so as to raise the lowest hanging branches over the parking bays. This would maintain a harmonious relationship between the trees and those who use the

parking area.

8 **Conclusion**

Recommend Permission

9 **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Head of Neighbourhood Support be authorised to **GRANT TPO CONSENT** for application APP/17/00845

(A)

(B) for the following reasons/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 pruning/surgery for which consent is hereby granted shall not exceed the following: Crown reduce northern sector by 2.5m and deadwood 1No. Oak (T1); crown raise to height of 4m, cut back limb on north side by 2.5m and deadwood, 1No. Oak (T2). Subject to TPO 1676.
Reason: To safeguard the health and well being of the tree(s) and its/their importance in the local landscape.
- 3 The tree works for which consent is hereby granted shall be carried out and completed no later than 17/10/18.
Reason: To control the timing of the works