**Development Management – Delegated Officer Report** **Date; 19/12/23**

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| **Application Number** | **AWDM/1252/23** |
| **Address** | **Library Penstone Park Lancing West Sussex BN15 9DL** |
| **Proposal** | **Application for consent under Adur Tree Preservation Order No.162/4/70(L) of 1970 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres one Holm Oak tree T1.** |

**Date of site visit:** 14/12/23

**Neighbours checked: Y**
**Additional neighbour notifications: N**
**Site notice: (wider publicity / conservation area): N**

**Proposal, Site and Surroundings**

The application refers to a large Holm Oak tree in the front grounds of Lancing Library. The tree is prominent in views from the east at the junction of Penstone Park and North Road where most public activity takes place, particularly with people walking/driving from this junction to use the library and other facilities at the site. The tree is part of the street scene and makes a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread.

The reasons for the works are primarily in the interests of light issues and amenity value.

**Consultations:** None.

**Representations:** None received.

**Relevant Planning History**

1970: Adur Tree Preservation order Number 162/4/70 (L) of 1970.

2000: Crown Lifting and Removal Of Damaged & Rubbing Limbs and 2 Large Suckers of Holm Oak Tree (Tpo 162/4/70/L)

2004: Crown Reduction of Holm Oak (Subject To Tpo 162/4/70/L)

2008: Crown thinning and other work to holm oak tree (subject to TPO 162/4/70/L)

2012: Application for consent under Tree Preservation Order No162/4/70/L for 1.5 metre reduction of lateral limbs (all aspects) to one Quercus Ilex (no reduction in height)

2016: Application for consent under Adur Tree Preservation Order No. 162/4/70 (L) of 1970 to crown lift up to 6 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres, reduce to clear building by up to 3 metres, remove basal and epicormic growth, and prune to clear cables by up to 0.5 metres one Holm Oak tree T1.

**Planning Assessment**

The tree is a large mature Holm Oak growing on raised ground at the front of Lancing Library. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree has a large diameter leaning single stem to 3 metres where it then becomes twin, with each stem correcting to upright and dividing again at 5 to 6 metres. The crown is slightly open at its centre between the two main spires. There are numerous pruning wounds, as would be expected on a tree of this size and age. The main crown is dense and wide spread, mostly on smaller secondary branches.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow more light and air to pass the crown.

These works in my opinion would be relatively minor in relation to the overall size, spread and crown form of the tree and would not significantly or adversely affect its appearance, amenity value, or its contribution to the character of the area.

**Recommendation**

**APPROVE**

**Grant Consent, subject to the following Conditions:**

1. Approved plans

2. The proposed works, hereby permitted, shall be restricted to those specified in the application only unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority and carried out within two years from the date of consent and in accordance with the British Standard BS 3998: 2010 Tree Work.

   **Reason:** *In the interest of visual amenity.*

**Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation?**

No

Case Officer: JDS Date: 19/12/2023

Authorised by: PB Date: 19/12/23