P/2026/0545 – Officer comments:

T1 – oak:

The proposed works are specified in order to reduce anticipated weight-loading on an oak tree which has recently experienced the fracture and failure of a lower primary limb.
The tree is located centrally within a car parking area.

The subsequent professional inspection undertaken by the agent revealed the presence of a juvenile decay fungus *Ganoderma spp*. The presence of this bracket follows on from a separate bracket, now diminished, but noted on the tree approximately 6 years ago.

The crown reduction proposed is for 2.5 - 3.0m and whilst I understand the decision-making process, I am of the opinion that such a level of pruning may prove counter-productive at this stage. The extent and influence of decay present within the tree should ideally be determined at the onset through the application of ultra-sound testing and micro-drilling. The findings of such an investigation will dictate an appropriate specification for the risk management of the tree.

Pruning the tree by up to 3.0m and potentially removing 15-20% of leaf surface area may reduce photosynthetic rates and the ability of the tree to compartmentalise any decay or lay down reactionary and compensatory wood tissue.

Until further evidence is provided and as a precautionary measure only at this stage, I would grant consent for a reduction of between 1.0 - 2.0m with an advisory note to the applicant/agent to undertake appropriate internal diagnostic testing as a priority.