

DELEGATED APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: **DC/26/1245: Rectory Walk Storrington West Sussex**

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

Storrington and Sullington Parish Council has stated no objection to this proposal, subject to the considerations of the HDC Arboricultural Officer.

No additional representations have been received in respect of this application.

ASSESSMENT:

1. The tree subject to this assessment is a mature Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) situated within a communal area of a residential estate where there is regular pedestrian activity. The constraint is TPO/0210, an Area order served on 14/10/1974.

2. The tree has been subject to ongoing decline for a number of years and has previously been managed in an attempt to facilitate its retention. Historic works include the selective crown on management and the installation of a Cobra cable bracing system intended to provide supplemental support and reduce structural loading upon significant limbs within the crown.

3. On inspection, the tree was found to be in a poor physiological condition. The crown exhibits advanced decline characterised by sparse foliage cover, limited foliage-bearing branch structure and an extensive distribution of deadwood throughout the canopy. These observations indicate a significant reduction in vitality and suggest the tree is approaching the latter stages of its life expectancy.

4. Two fungal fruiting bodies of an unidentified species were observed at the base of the stem within the root collar area; the fruiting bodies are considered visually consistent with a species of *Ganoderma*, a genus commonly associated with the decay of lower stem and root tissues.

5. The combination of advanced crown decline, significant deadwood and the apparent presence of a decay fungus gives rise to concerns regarding the ongoing structural integrity of the tree. Whilst the existing cable bracing may assist in reducing the likelihood of failure associated with individual limbs, it does not address any underlying deterioration of the stem or root system.

6. Having regard to the tree's condition and its location within an area of regular public use, it is considered that the tree presents an increasing management liability. The observed defects are not considered compatible with the long-term retention of the tree and the benefits associated with its continued retention are outweighed by concerns regarding its declining condition and potential for structural failure.

RECOMMENDATION:

Grant consent subject to the conditions below.

CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:

- | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| 1. TR2 | <i>Time limit, 2 years</i> |
| 2. TR7 | <i>Replacement (Single tree)</i> |
| 3. TR4 | <i>Surgery standards</i> |
| TINF1 | <i>Note to applicant.</i> |
| TINF2 | <i>Wildlife protection.</i> |

DELEGATED

Authorising Officer sign.....ANBU..... **Arboricultural Officer (Strategic Planning).**

Date.....5 Oct 26.....