DELEGATED APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: **DC/25/1874: Land South of St Marys Close Thakeham West Sussex.**

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:
No representations have been received in respect of this application.

ASSESSMENT:
1. The Oak, the subject of this application, is a mature specimen that forms part of a line of trees protected under Order 1419, in which this tree is identified as T7 of the Order. The principal views of the tree are form within St Marys Close, to the north west, and form Concord Close to the southeast; it is considered to have a good level of visual amenity value, albeit localised, due to the additional tree coverage in the area.

2. The tree appears to be in fair condition with no evident structural or psychological issues observed at the time of inspection. The tree exhibits a heavy crown bias to the south and west due to competition with the adjacent, larger, multi-stem Ash, some crown correction work, would help to address this.

3. While the Oak tree is situated outside the applicant's property, it does extend laterally over the rear garden in places. It is acknowledged that minor lateral reduction works appear to have been carried out previously to mitigate such encroachment. Any further lateral works of a similar nature are not expected to materially affect the tree's overall appearance or cause harm.

4. Regarding the proposed three-metre crown reduction, while some sympathetic crown reduction could address the tree's southward crown bias, the extent of the proposed works is considered excessive relative to the reasons presented. A full three-metre reduction would significantly alter the tree's natural form and could result in large, truncated branches, increasing the risk of decay by providing entry points for pathogens. Furthermore, the scale of the reduction would not necessarily comply fully with current professional guidance, specifically BS 3998:2010 – Tree Work: Recommendations.

5. On this basis, the proposed three-metre reduction is not supported. To safeguard the health, appearance, and long-term viability of the tree, it is considered appropriate to limit the works to a 1.5-metre all-round crown reduction. This approach balances the applicant's concerns with the statutory duty to protect trees of amenity value under the TPO.

RECOMMENDATION:
Grant consent subject to the conditions below.

CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:

1. TR2 *Time limit, 2 years*
2. TR3 *Treeworks limit (standard)*
2. TR3a *Treeworks limit (bespoke)*

The tree work to which this consent relates shall be limited to:

- Crown reduce tree all-round by trimming branches to suitable growth points by up to no more than 1.5m leaving a well-balanced crown and remove any large dead wood.

- Reduce any low lateral branches, over the garden of 21 Concord Close that do not form part of the main crown, back to the property boundary, if suitable growth points are present if not the low lateral branches should be reduced back to the nearest available growth point.

Reason: for the avoidance of doubt.

3. TR4 *Surgery standards*

TINF1 *Note to applicant.*
TINF2 *Wildlife protection.*

DELEGATED

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

Date……23 Jan 26…