DELEGATED APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO **DC/25/0268: 24 The Willows Billingshurst.**

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:
Billingshurst 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 trees the subject of this application are both mature oaks located in the rear garden of 24 The Willows Billingshurst. The constraint is TPO/1461, the trees In question are listed as T1 and T2 of the order.

2. The proposed works are to reduce both trees by 30%. The reasons provided for the works are due to concerns with trees' proximity to the applicants' property, and the impact this is having on the applicants' family , dead wood in the crown of T2, their structural stability in high winds in terms of their condition, and how the trees are impacting party of the patio in the rear garden

3. The oak trees when viewed from within the public domain, appear to be in a fair form and viability c, some minor dead wood was observed in the crowns of the trees, but given their age and urban setting this was not considered to be a cause of concern and in good structural and physiological condition. They are mature specimens, which stand prominently within a built-up residential setting, as both trees are highly visible when viewed from the public domain, particularly from the west on Berrall Way, and from the northwest at the junction of The Willows and Berrall Way, from which both trees are readily visible. The trees form a defining feature in the local streetscape and significantly and positively contribute to the visual character and amenities of the area.

4. While it is acknowledged that previous surgery works have been undertaken upon the trees, with similar lengths of time between these applications and the recent submission. However, in this respect, it is worth noting that from the site inspection, it was evident that the trees had not fully recovered from previous pruning works carried out under application DC/20/2051 for T2 and DC/19/2045 for T1. To repeat such a pruning regime at this early stage would not be appropriate and would not represent good arboricultural practice as advised in the current industry standard BS3998 Tree Works Recommendations 2010.

5. Additionally, I am conscious of the cumulative stress that this type of cyclical pruning places upon trees, especially those which have not yet had the opportunity to properly recover from previous surgery works. In this case, further work would likely erode the stature and long-term health of the tree, which is contrary to the principles of sustainable tree management.

6. Notwithstanding, it is acknowledged that the northern face of the crown of T2 is beginning to encroach on the roof of the property. As such, while it would not be appropriate to reduce the entire crown, it would appear reasonable for some minor lateral reduction works to be completed upon T2, to improve the situation. In addition, some minor crown thinning works could be completed upon T1 and T2 without a loss of amenity to the area or significantly impacting tress overall condition.

RECOMMENDATION:
Grant consent subject to the conditions below.

CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:
1. TR2 *Time limit, 2 years*
2. TR3a *Treeworks limit (Bespoke)*
   The tree work to which this consent relates shall be limited to:
   - T1 - Thin the internal crown by no more than 15% of the total crown and remove any visible deadwood.
   - T2 Reduce lateral branches on the Northern side of the crown (the side facing the house) back to the existing pruning/ growth points and chamfer the top edge into the remaining crown. Remove back to sound wood the large central westerly scaffold branch, with a large vertical wound, and medium-sized cavity. Thin the internal crown by no more than 15% of the total crown and remove any visible deadwood.

   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…….30 May 25…