DELEGATED APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: **DC/24/0617: Springfield Park, 1 Springfield Park House, North Parade.**

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:
Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council has stated no further action, in respect of this application.
A single representation of objection to the entire removal of the tree been received in respect of this application.

ASSESSMENT:
1. The tree the subject of this application is a huge old veteran Oak tree sited in a central location within the communal garden area to the west of Springfield Park House. It is of historical and ecological importance on account of its great age, veteran status, and size; the tree is one of the largest remaining trees in Horsham Town.

2. As with the majority of such remaining specimens, over the centuries it has suffered from extremes of storm damage, and it is also heavily infected by a rage of pathogenic decay fungi. At some point, a large central stem has failed, resulting in a large wound on the northern side of the main stem, and there are numerous cavities within the crown on the historic pruning wounds; this tree is a 'battle-scarred survivor'.

3. Given the tree's age, the above observations are not considered to be uncommon. However, the tree currently is exhibiting extensive dieback and reduced vitality in the upper areas of the crown and on several large lateral limbs consistent with the latter stages of its natural life cycle. The overall foliage coverage throughout the crown is presently less than 10% foliated; suggesting that the trees vitality and energy reverses are nearly depleted. As such, it is unlikely that it will be able to mount a full recovery from its currently reduced physiological state and its condition will likely continue to decline; although it is acknowledged that his will be dependent upon its stored energy reserves which is presently unknown.

4. The apclation has been supported by a Valid Tree Risk -Benefit Summary Report prepared by MDJ Arboricultural Consultancy Limited. The Author has provided a detailed assessment of the trees current condition with regard to its location within a built-up residential area, and the safety concerns associated with this.

5. The report has provided two management options thew first being to remove the bulk of the crown, while retaining a section of the main stem, with regard to the ecological benefits that this would afford to the area, in terms of habitat for invertebrates, birds, mammals and other wildlife. The second option would require the complete removal of the tree and them replace it with a new specimen tree.

6. Following the submission of the application, discussions have led to option one being the preferred way of managing the tree moving forward. Whereby, the entire crown of the tree will be removed, leaving a 3.5m high section of the main stem.

7. It is accepted that the works will significantly alter how the tree is viewed and as a result give rise to harm to the character and amenities of the locality. However, the retention of the 3.5m section of the stem will still provide a wide array or ecological benefits to the area, while ensuring the that the tree does not represent an unreasonable safety to its immediate surroundings.

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:
   - Reduce in height (monolith) by removing the entire crown leaving a section of the trunk at a height of no less than 3.5m above ground level.

   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 Aug 24……