

DELEGATED APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: **DC/26/1143: The Mews, Skeyne Drive, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 2BB**

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

Pulborough Parish Council has stated no objection to this proposal, wishing to defer to the considerations of the HDC Arboricultural Officer.

No representations have been received in respect of this application.

ASSESSMENT:

1. The trees subject to this application are located within the communal areas of The Mews and Belgrave Court and are protected by TPO/0130, an Area Order confirmed on 03 November 1964.

2. The proposed works comprise the crown lifting of T1 Goat Willow by up to 2m through the removal of minor growth only to improve access beneath the canopy, together with the re-pollarding of T2 and T3 Weeping Willows back to their previous pollard points, including a reduction in overall crown dimensions and the removal of deadwood from T3.

3. The proposed works to the central Weeping Willow and the Goat Willow on the eastern side of the open space are considered reasonable arboricultural management operations and are unlikely to result in any significant harm to the health, condition or public amenity value of the trees.

4. Since submission of the application, T3 Weeping Willow, located adjacent to the river, has suffered a substantial failure of its principal branches due to advanced decay within the main stem structure. As a result of this failure, the remaining eastern and western lateral limbs have become considerably more exposed and increasingly reliant upon attachment points associated with the decayed central stem.

5. Whilst the original proposal sought to re-pollard these limbs back to the previous pollard points, such works could inadvertently increase the risk of failure at the principal attachment unions given the unknown extent of residual decay within the remaining stem. In this instance, a more appropriate and proactive management approach would be to reduce the retained lateral limbs whilst leaving approximately 1.5 metres of branch framework extending from the point of attachment.

6. Furthermore, the remaining section of the failed main stem should be reduced, where practicable, to a point below the areas of failure in order to remove compromised material and reduce the likelihood of further failure.

7. Given the species characteristics of Weeping Willow and its generally vigorous response to pruning, the tree is expected to tolerate the amended works well and should produce strong replacement growth during the next growing season. The amended works are therefore considered to represent a balanced and proportionate response, appropriately addressing the tree's current structural condition whilst retaining its contribution to the character and amenity of the site.

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:

- Trees T1 and T2 undertaken works as proposed.
- T3 Weeping Willow: Reduce the eastern and western lateral limbs to retain approximately 1.5m of branch framework extending from the point of attachment on the main stem and reduce the failed central stem to below the point of failure, by around 1 to 1.5m while retaining the eastern and western lateral limbs.
- Silver Willow's by playground Remove any dead wood greater than 75 mm.

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.....16 September 26.....