

CONSERVATION AREA NOTIFICATION

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: DC/25/2161: 13 Windmill Place Billingshurst.

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

Billingshurst Parish Council has indicated no objection to this notification.

No representations have been received in respect of this notification.

ASSESSMENT:

1. The Ash tree, the subject of this application, is located within the rear garden of the above residential property. The tree is subject to statutory planning controls by default due to its size and location.

2. The tree has been inspected, and it is evident that it is affected by ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*). Symptoms observed include crown thinning and progressive dieback, consistent with this disease.

3. Ash dieback is a serious, progressive condition with an unpredictable rate of decline and an increased likelihood of structural failure over time. Due to the tree's position within the confined setting of a residential rear garden, there are limited opportunities for long-term retention, natural retrenchment, or management without unacceptable risk.

4. The proximity of the tree to the dwelling, garden use areas, and neighbouring properties significantly reduces its suitability for safe retention as the disease progresses. Ongoing deterioration is likely to result in an increased risk to people and property.

5. Given the presence of ash dieback and the tree's location within a residential rear garden, its long-term retention is not considered appropriate. As such, its removal is recommended to mitigate future safety risks and avoid the need for reactive management as the tree declines.

6. Accordingly, it is not considered necessary or appropriate to protect the tree by means of a Tree Preservation Order.

RECOMMENDATION:

No objection to notification.

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

Date.....04 Feb 26.....