DELEGATED APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: **DC/24/1250: Chennells Brook Barn, Rusper Road, Horsham.**

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:
North Horsham 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 ash tree in question is a massive veteran specimen in the rear garden of Chennells Brook Barn, on the south side of an old field ditch pre-dating the development in the area. At least 24m in height and exhibiting a stem diameter of 1140mm this huge tree dominates the area, being far and away the largest and most impressive specimen in the locality. It has a high-level of amenity value, being prominent from a wide area, and most particularly from the entrance to Petworth Drive, to the north. It has not been subject to any significant works recent years.

2. Upon inspection it was evident that there was a fair level of dieback and standing dead wood and die back in the crown, with the tree being around 75% floated, in several locations at its base there were numerus fungal fruiting bodies (FFB) of Ganoderma australe, a species of tree decay fungi attributed to selective white rot in the host tree. On the eastern side of the stem at around 1m agl, is a well-established cavity, when probed around 800mm of ingress was achieved. As a result of the fungal colonisation, the tree has put out a substantial amount of reaction grown, in the buttress area, whereby it has laid down new growth with the aim of increasing its structural stability.

3. The works proposed by the applicant were to remove the dead wood from the tree. However, it is clear that this alone would do little to ensure that the tree can be retained in a safer and reasonable manner. For the most part this is due to the built-up residential nature of the trees the tree is location, with the nearest property to the north being sited around 15m from the base of the tree, and the nearest properties south and east are both located around 22m form the base of the tree. Taking these points into account, I have had to rewrite the works spec, and the consent will refer to the more substantial reduction in the height and lateral spread of the tree.

4. Due to the age and veteran status of the tree, to ensure its best chances of survival; the works will need to be undertaken two stages. First by way of an initial reduction in height of around 12m to 13m to bring the height of the tree down to no more that 12 to 11m above ground level, and then a reduction of the lateral branches by around half of their current length; around 7m to 4 to 3m, to create a lower more compact crown, with the aim of reducing the risk of wind trough and failure in the upper crown. Following the initial works, the tree should be monitored, to see how it copes with the works and to assess the extent the fungal colonisation and cavity it the stem, which should be assessed yearly. Then following an assessment of the trees condition, and if needed around 3 to 4 years after the initial works, the hight should be brought down to around 8m, and the lateral branches reduced to re balance the crown with the new dimensions of the tree.

5. Although the permitted works exceed what would generally be considered to represent good arboricultural practices and will impact the good level of amenity value that the tree provides to the area. However, on a balanced judgment it is considered that due to the built-up residential of the area, and the safety concerns associated with the trees condition the level of permitted works is justifiable.

RECOMMENDATION:
Grant consent subject to the conditions below.

CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:
1. TR2 *Time limit, 4 years*
2. TR3a *Treeworks limit (bespoke)*

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

- Initial reduction in height of around 12m to 13m to bring the height of the tree down to no more that 12 to 11m above ground level, reduce lateral branches all-round by around half of their current length; around 7m to 4 to 3m, to create a lower more compact well-balanced crown. Where safe to do so, dead wood should be retained.
- Secondary works 3 to 4 years the initial works, the hight should be brought down to 9m above ground level , and the lateral branches reduced accordingly to re-balance the crown within the new dimensions of the tree. Where safe to do so, dead wood should be retained

Reason: avoidance of doubt.

3. TR4 *Surgery standards*
TINF1 *Note to applicant.*
TINF2 *Wildlife protection.*

DELEGATED

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

Date……25 Oct 24