

DELEGATED APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: **DC/26/0170: Viscount House Units A & B Star Road Partridge Green.**

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

No additional representations have been received in respect of this application.

ASSESSMENT:

1. The tree the subject of this application is a mature oak tree located on a grassed verge at the entrance to the industrial estate at Units A–B, Star Road. The tree is a prominent feature at the site entrance and contributes positively to the appearance of the area. The constraint is TPO/0285 served on 10-08-1978.

2. The applicant seeks consent to reduce the crown of the tree by approximately 2 m. The reason for the request is the discovery of a fungal fruiting body of the tree decay fungi **Ganoderma resinaceum** at the base of the tree.

3. A detailed assessment by Connick Tree Care confirms that the tree is generally healthy and growing well, with no signs of crown decline. However, the investigation also found internal decay in the lower part of the trunk, caused by **Ganoderma resinaceum**. The report notes: "There is significant decaying of the Oak tree's heartwood, more pronounced near ground level."

4. Despite this decay, the report highlights that tree currently has enough sound wood to remain stable. The report calculated safety margins that are well above the minimum level normally considered acceptable. The consultant states: "These values exceed the minimum recommended threshold at all assessed heights."

5. The tree stands next to a highway and commercial buildings, meaning it is in a location where failure could have consequences. The report identifies the site as: "Target Risk: Moderate to High." Because the decay is active and likely to progress over time, reducing the size of the crown is a sensible way to lessen wind loading and help the tree remain stable in the long term.

6. The consultant's modelling in the report shows that a 2 m crown reduction would significantly increase the tree's safety margins. The report states: "These values represent a substantial improvement over the existing safety margins..." The proposed works are modest, will retain the tree's natural shape, and will not harm the visual amenity of the area.

7. Therefore, it is considered that the proposed works are reasonable and justified for the reason provide, and if undertaken in accordance with industry best practice as set out in BS 3998 Tree Works Recommendations (2010) will not cause harm to the character and amenities of the locality.

RECOMMENDATION:

Grant consent subject to the conditions below.

CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:

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|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. TR2 | <i>Time limit, 2 years</i> |
| 2. TR3 | <i>Treeworks limit (standard)</i> |
| 3. TR4 | <i>Surgery standards</i> |
| TINF1 | <i>Note to applicant.</i> |
| TINF2 | <i>Wildlife protection.</i> |

DELEGATED

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

Date.....27 Mar 26...