DELEGATED APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: **DC/26/1578: Rookery Wood Five Oaks Road Slinfold RH13 0RQ**

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:
Slinfold Parish Council has stated no objection to this proposal, wishing to defer to the considerations of the HDC Arboricultural Officer.
No additional formal representations have been received in respect of this application.

ASSESSMENT:
1. The works proposed within this application comprise highway safety operations to be undertaken by West Sussex County Council in response to a number of dead or severely affected ash trees adjoining Five Oaks Road. The trees have regrettably succumbed to ash dieback, a disease characterised by progressive crown dieback, leaf loss, and decline, which can significantly affect tree health and structural stability.

2. The trees are protected by Tree Preservation Orders TPO 1269 and TPO 1271. However, as the Highway Authority, West Sussex County Council has a statutory duty to maintain the safety of the public highway and ensure safe passage for highway users. The proposed works are therefore considered necessary to discharge this obligation and mitigate the risk posed by declining trees adjacent to the highway.

3. Whilst it is acknowledged that the removal of these trees will result in a noticeable impact on the character and visual amenity of the area, the works are justified in the interests of public safety. Given the extensive woodland setting within which the affected trees are located, it is not considered necessary or appropriate to require replacement planting in this instance. The surrounding woodland cover will remain largely intact, and natural regeneration and recovery following completion of the works are expected to maintain the wooded character of the area over time.

RECOMMENDATION:
Grant consent subject to the conditions below.

CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:

1. TR2	*Time limit, 2 years*
2. TR3	*Treeworks limit (standard)*
3. TR4	*Surgery standards*
TINF1	*Note to applicant.*
TINF2	*Wildlife protection.*

DELEGATED

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

Date……27 Oct 26…