DELEGATED APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: **DC/24/1789: 19 Blakiston Close, Ashington.**

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:
Steyning 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 group of yew trees referred to contains 5 individual specimens with wholly coalesced crowns; from a distance the group has the look of one very wide, stout yew tree, which is its premier feature. It is an interesting 'specimen', retained on the site prior to its residential development.

2. The tree is contained within a fenced-off parcel of land directly opposite No 18 & 19 Blakiston Close, and It has high localised amenity value, and makes a significant contribution character and amenities of the locality.

3. The tree was last reduced under application DC/20/0631, permitted on 28/04/2020. The works were to reduce the tree/trees all-round by 1.5m. While the tree appears to have recovered well from the previous surgery given the slow growth rate of Yew, it has only put on a limited amount of new growth, which appears to be no more than around 50cm to 75cm in places.

4. The applicants seek consent to reduce the tree all-round by 2.5m; no reason has been stated for the works on the application. While the tree is of a fair size, currently, it is not touching any of the adjacent properties, and there is a distance of around 2.5m to 3m between the tree and the dwellings.

5. Whilst it is acknowledged that a 2.5m reduction in height and lateral spread would slightly increase the distance between the lateral spread of the crown and the adjacent properties. This action would result in a number of foliage-bearing branches being cut back past the existing live growth back to bare stems, and a high percentage of the tree's photosynthetic volume would need to be removed in one setting to achieve a full 2.5m crown reduction.

6. It is acknowledged that the proposed surgery works would help to address the tree to build relationship with the surrounding properties. However, the works would considerably alter the visual aesthetics of the tree and have a harmful effect upon its fine, wide, stout, spreading form, which is its premier feature. This coupled with the length of time it would take to recover and reasonable shape similar to how it present looks would, in turn, give rise to harm to the character and amenities of the area, an action which appears unjustified.

7. While some works are permissible, this should be limited to a more appropriate amount, which considers the tree's current form. As such, the permitted works shall be restricted to trimming branches back to the established growth points only.

RECOMMENDATION:
Grant consent subject to the conditions below.

CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:

1. TR2 *Time limit, 2 years*
2. TR3a *Treeworks limit (bespoke)*
   The tree work to which this consent relates shall be limited to:
   - Crown reduce all-round, all 5 individual specimens, as if they were a single tree, by trimming branches back to the established to growth points by up to no more than 50cm to 75cm, leaving a well-balanced crown.
3. TR4 *Surgery standards*

TINF1 *Note to applicant.*
TINF2 *Wildlife protection.*

DELEGATED

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

Date……07 Feb 25……