

DELEGATED APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: **DC/25/2041: 30 Rusper Road Horsham.**

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

North Horsham Parish Council has stated no objection to this proposal, subject to the comments of HDC's Tree Officer. The Committee requests that the felled tree be replaced with an appropriate native species in a suitable nearby location.

One representation has been received in respect of this application; the comments received are neither objecting to or supporting the Planning Application, but they do seek clarification on why the trees removal has been sought.

ASSESSMENT:

1. The tree, the subject of this application, is a sycamore that has been historically managed as a pollard. It forms part of an avenue of pollarded sycamores abutting a twitten that separates Nos. 28 and 30 Richmond Road, Horsham.

2. The application to remove the tree has arisen following a recent Health & Safety survey of the tree conducted by Connick Tree Care on behalf of the tree owner, Saxon Weald Homes Ltd.

3. Historically, the tree has been maintained at a smaller size through cyclical re-pollarding. However, during the most recent inspection, a Ganoderma fungal bracket was identified at the base of the stem. This variety of tree decay fungus generally colonizes the host tree through old pruning wounds or roots, slowly decaying the inner wood by breaking down lignin and cellulose. This weakens the tree's structure over time and is a strong indication that internal decay is present in the lower stem.

4. A sounding test using a nylon-tipped hammer confirmed a significant change in resonance within the main stem, consistent with internal decay resulting from fungal colonization at the base of the tree. This, coupled with the pronounced lean the tree exhibits toward the neighboring property's garage, implies a potential risk to nearby properties and users of the twitten in the event of structural failure.

5. In terms of public amenity, the tree makes a positive contribution to the avenue of pollarded sycamores along the twitten. However, given the confirmed structural concerns, it would be appropriate to remove the tree and replace it with the same species. When this replacement reaches maturity, it can be managed in the same way as the other trees in the group, thereby maintaining the visual and amenity value of the avenue and mitigating the impact of the removal.

6. It is considered that the proposed works are reasonable and justified for the reason provide, and, subject to replacement planting, will not cause any lasting harm to the character and amenities of the locality.

RECOMMENDATION:

Grant consent subject to the conditions below.

CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:

- | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| 1. TR2 | <i>Time limit, 2 years</i> |
| 2. TR3 | <i>Replacement (single tree)</i> |
| TINF1 | <i>Note to applicant.</i> |
| TINF2 | <i>Wildlife protection.</i> |

DELEGATED

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

Date.....02 Mar 26...