DELEGATED APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: **DC/24/1833: Pulborough Recreation Ground.**

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:
Pulborough Parish Council has stated No comments because the tree is on Parish land
2 x representations of support have been received in respect of this application.

ASSESSMENT:
1. The tree the subject of this application is a large and mature Oak located on the edge of the recreation field abutting the residential cul-du-sac Collingwood. The constraint is TPO/0129, an Area Order served on 25/02/1969.

2. Due to its location denoting the boundary of the Recreation Ground and the residential area to the north, the tree is highly visible from several public viewpoints in the area and is of high amenity value when viewed within the local landscape context.

3. The applicants', Pulborough Parish Council seek consent to fell the tree in question; due to concerns with the fungal colonisation of the tree by Armillaria spp. Honey Fungus. And to fulfil their obligations to ensure that the trees under their ownership are maintained to a safe and reasonable standard; in respect of the 1957 and 1984 Occupiers' Liability Acts. The application has been supported by a tree report, prepared by Maximus Tree Care.

4. The Parish Council were originally made aware of the situation with the tree, by the HDC Arboricultural officer in planning, in September 2021, when they were undertaking a site visit in the area. Since 2021, the tree's condition has been monitored, however, despite this, it is apparent that its condition has continued to decline. Whereby, its crown is becoming sparse throughout, and it is exhibiting a high percentage of dieback on the south-facing side where the fungal fruiting bodies of the Honey fungus are located.

5. The reduction in the physiological and structural condition of the tree, suggests that the fungal colonisation is now likely causing root mortality, leading to a reduction in water and nutrient uptake, and a depletion of the load barring capacity and tensile strength of the root system to withstand the threat from dynamic storm events. Consideration on the outcome of this application must therefore given to the high target nature of the tree's location, with a communal parking area and habited dwellings situated to the north, and the potential risk to such areas, should the tree fail.

6. As with any application to fell a protected tree, a balancing exercise needs to be undertaken. The essential need for and the justification for the works applied must be weighed against the resultant loss to the amenity of the area. In this case, the tree's amenity value in the landscape has been noted, and it is accepted that its removal will result in a loss of amenity to the locality. It is also undesirable to lose such a tree which contributes to the character of the area and for which any replacement would be, for several years at least, slim recompense.

7. Notwithstanding, it is accepted that consideration could be given to taking an alternative approach, and managing the tree's decline through substantial surgery works, taking into account its location within a built-up residential area. It is considered that the extent of surgery needed to manage the tree in a safe and reasonable manner would see the tree retained in some form, however, at the same time this action would also considerably alter how it is viewed within the local landscape context, and likely result in harm to the visual character and amenities of the area.

8. The key consideration in this case therefore is that there is clear and satisfactory evidence to justify the tree's removal on safety/condition grounds. In this respect, it is considered that is the case, and the reasons put forward for the removal of the tree are considered to be reasonable and justified.

9. To help mitigate the loss of the tree a replacement tree of Heavy Standard size (circa. 3m tall with a trunk girth of 12-14cm at planting) shall be secured by condition. Recommended Ulmus 'Lutèce' (Naguen), and Ulmus 'New Horizon' are both DED Resistant species of Elm, Liriodendron tulipifera - Tulip tree, Lime, common (Tilia x europaea) or Ginkgo biloba, commonly known as the Maidenhair tree.

RECOMMENDATION:
Grant consent subject to the conditions below.

CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:

1. TR2	*Time limit, 2 years*
2. TR7	*Replacement (single tree)*
TINF1	*Note to applicant.*
TINF2	*Wildlife protection.*

DELEGATED

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

Date……27 Feb 25…