DELEGATED APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: **DC/25/0824: 17 Chesworth Gardens Horsham.**

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:
Forest Neighbourhood Council has stated that they wish to defer to the considerations of the HDC Arboricultural Officer.
No additional representations have been received in respect of this application.

ASSESSMENT:
1. The tree subject of this application is a mature silver birch, located in a prominent location on the NE side of the pond to the front of the applicant's property NO.17. The tree is T22 of order No.0619, served on 01/08/1988.

2. The tree is readily visible from numerous public viewpoints in the area. It is a prominent specimen with high public amenity value; it contributes meaningfully to the public landscape, in terms of visual character.

3. The reason stated for the removal of the tree are due to concerns with dead branches, one of which recently fell off. Additionally, the applicant has raised concerns with the tree's condition and the potential risk it poses to nearby properties and individuals, particularly concerning children who live and play on the street, as well as community events such as street parties. However, the application lacks any detailed information on the trees condition, such as a tree condition survey, to support the applicant's assumptions about the tree condition.

4. Upon inspection, the tree was found to be in generally good condition, with a healthy and well-distributed leaf canopy, which indicates good overall vitality. The form of the tree is natural and well-balanced, with no evidence of poor pruning or crown distortion. There were no obvious signs of structural or physiological issues at the time of inspection. The trunk and major scaffold limbs appear sound, with no evidence of decay, cavities, bark dysfunction, or other common indicators of structural failure. Notwithstanding, it was noted that there is a minor presence of dead wood within the crown, and some low dead branches, which is entirely natural in a mature tree of this species and age, given its location within a residential setting.

5. Under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012, the removal of dead wood is considered an exempt activity and does not require consent under a TPO. As such, the removal of the dead wood can be completed at any time, without the need for a formal application. This action would be prudent and would also help to address the concerns of the applicant.

6. The proposed removal (felling) of this tree is not supported, as the tree is in good health and condition, and no arboricultural or structural justification has been provided to warrant its removal. Felling this Silver Birch would result in a significant and unnecessary loss of amenity to the area. The tree forms an integral part of the local landscape; Its removal would be noticeable and would cause harm to the character and amenities of the locality.

RECOMMENDATION:
Recommendation: refusal on the grounds that the removal of the tree would result in a loss of visual amenity value to the area, an action which appears unjustified for the reasons provide.

DELEGATED

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

Date……18 Aug 25…