

Delegated Decision

Sign off Sheet

Ref. No:	DM/25/2122	Case Officer:	Irene Fletcher
Application Type:	Tree Surgery		
Proposal:	1 Ash - Fell. Oak and Ash - reduce back to previous pruning points, between 1-3m on each tree.		
Site:	24 Coopers Close, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 8AN, , , ,		
Validation Date	20 Aug 2025	Overall Expiry Date:	11 Sep 2025
Pre-Commencement Conditions Required:		Pre-Com Conditions Date Agreed:	
Recommendation:	Permission	Recommendation Date:	9 Oct 2025
Target Date:	15 Oct 2025	Recommending Officer Signature:	Irene Fletcher

Date Legal Agreement Completed: (if applicable)		No of Representations:	3
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Signed and Agreed By:	Beth Howland-Smith	Date:	10 Oct 2025
Comments:			

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

DM/25/2122

**24 Coopers Close, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 8AN, , ,
1 Ash - Fell. Oak and Ash - reduce back to previous pruning points, between 1-3m on each tree.
Mrs Deborah Penney**

Permission is sought for the works as described.

This application has been the subject of a pre application visit.

The trees are located in the rear garden and have some public visibility.

The ash, proposed for felling, is a mature specimen close to the side boundary. It has significant symptoms of ash die back disease, as well as basal decay and areas of uncalloused wounds on the trunk , also extensive areas of missing bark. The tree is in severe decline and will not recover.

The other ash and oak are located in the rear corner of the garden, with residential gardens to the rear.

Three representations have been received, making the following points :

- concerned about the height of the oak tree, if it came down, it could result in serious injury
- the other ash tree should be felled and I cannot accept the tree officer's view on this
- loss of light and outlook due to the ash
- a 25 foot limb came off the oak tree and it is unsafe
- residential properties are close to the oak tree
- pruning will reduce the risk from the tree

The oak and the ash are mature specimens, growing only about 60cms apart, with a shared crown. Both have previously been reduced. The ash exhibits minor symptoms of ash die back disease but is not considered to pose a risk at this stage.

As the trees have developed together, any impacts on one tree would have major impacts on the other.

The tree officer made a second visit to the site in view of the comments. As regards the fallen limb from the oak tree, she was unable to view where this may have occurred. She examined all of the trees closely again, and her recommendations for work remain the same. The applicant did not recall a limb falling from the tree.

Whilst ADBD is common on nearly all ash trees within the district, this is a mature specimen which, the Forestry Commission advises are likely to have had the disease for many years, and may provide some resistant genetic material for the future. Minor symptoms of the disease do not mean that every affected tree should be felled. In this case, there is also the adjacent oak to consider.

With regard to the town council comments, as so many ash trees are impacted by ADBD symptoms, it is not considered reasonable to require a tree report in every case. The tree officer inspects every tree and, if there are doubts, requires a tree report.

Permission is recommended.

Decision: Permission

Case Officer: Irene Fletcher

