

Delegated Decision

Sign off Sheet

Ref. No:	DM/25/2308	Case Officer:	Irene Fletcher
Application Type:	Tree Surgery		
Proposal:	Birch Tree - Fell to ground level.		
Site:	Froyls, 125 High Street, Lindfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 2HR, ,		
Validation Date	11 Sep 2025	Overall Expiry Date:	3 Oct 2025
Pre-Commencement Conditions Required:		Pre-Com Conditions Date Agreed:	
Recommendation:	Permission	Recommendation Date:	29 Oct 2025
Target Date:	6 Nov 2025	Recommending Officer Signature:	Irene Fletcher

Date Legal Agreement Completed: (if applicable)		No of Representations:	2
--	--	-------------------------------	---

Signed and Agreed By:	Stephen Ashdown	Date:	30 Oct 2025
Comments:			

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

DM/25/2308

**Froyls, 125 High Street, Lindfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 2HR,
Birch Tree - Fell to ground level.
Mr Ian Sayers**

Permission is sought for the works as described.

The tree is a mature specimen, located to the front of the property. It is highly visible from the High Street and contributes to the character of the Conservation Area.

The tree has previously been reduced, however, it has now reached maturity. Whilst the tree does not have significant defects, it would appear that there has been some historic soil piling around the base. This has resulted in small areas of loose bark and decay in some areas. There is also evidence of a broken root and possible root movement, most likely exacerbated by the dry summer. Paving slabs and drains has also been damaged by the tree roots, indicating that the roots have moved closer to the gravel surfacing.

A representation has been received, supporting the felling of the tree on the following grounds ;

- our lives are blighted by the tree
- there is so much debris from the tree that we cannot open our back door or windows
- the patio must be swept daily
- the height of the tree poses a threat to the back of the house
- the tree is at worst a danger and at best, a nuisance

With regard to the parish council comments, the tree has previously been reduced and birch trees do not prune successfully. It is not considered that there is any work which could be carried out to the tree which would make it safer. Whilst the tree is of undoubted amenity value, it is also a mature specimen, coming to the end of its life.

This is a balanced case and, while the tree is not currently a high risk, it is likely to become so. Bearing in mind its limited lifespan and defects which are likely to become more significant as time passes, and its high target area, it is considered that a pragmatic approach is required.

On balance, it is considered favourable to replace the tree with a native specimen which has some longevity for the future.

Permission is recommended.

Decision: Permission

Case Officer: Irene Fletcher