

Delegated Decision

Sign off Sheet

Ref. No:	DM/25/2653	Case Officer:	Irene Fletcher
Application Type:	Tree Surgery		
Proposal:	Pine Tree - Fell to above ground level.		
Site:	7 Orchid Park, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3JF, , , ,		
Validation Date	17 Oct 2025	Overall Expiry Date:	11 Nov 2025
Pre-Commencement Conditions Required:		Pre-Com Conditions Date Agreed:	
Recommendation:	Permission	Recommendation Date:	20 Nov 2025
Target Date:	12 Dec 2025	Recommending Officer Signature:	Irene Fletcher

Date Legal Agreement Completed: (if applicable)		No of Representations:	0
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Signed and Agreed By:	Beth Howland-Smith	Date:	21 Nov 2025
Comments:			

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

DM/25/2653

**7 Orchid Park, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3JF, , ,
Pine Tree - Fell to above ground level.
Mr Terrence Hillman**

Permission is sought for the works as described.

The tree, a mature pine with high visibility is located in the rear/side garden of the property. It is a twin stemmed specimen within a few metres of the property.

A previous application to address the weak union between the stems, by installing a cobra brace, was approved (ref DM/25/1407). This followed negotiations with the applicant/agent, as the original proposal was to fell the tree.

Following a further site meeting, it was noted that there appeared to be some root plate movement, which was not previously apparent.

A representation of objection has been received, making the following points :

- the tree provides ecological benefits including carbon absorption, the release of oxygen and mitigating climate change
- consideration should be given to other action which does not require the loss of the tree
- if the tree poses a significant and genuine health and safety risk, and hard evidence is provided, would not object

This is a balanced case. The previous approval indicates that remedial action in respect of the weak union was addressed. However, it is difficult to assess tree root movement/damage, without harm to the tree. Pines tend to be shallow rooted specimens and the tree is located in a high target area. Whilst the brace would have provided some security in terms of the weak union, it would not mitigate the risk of root plate movement. Even if a tomograph was requested, it would not necessarily indicate root damage/risk.

A recommendation, therefore, needs to be made on the basis of perceived risk. In this case, it is considered that the risks posed by the tree do not outweigh the benefits that it provides.

A replacement tree will be required by condition and this will address some of the points made in the representation, in the longer term.

Permission is recommended.

Decision: Permission

Case Officer: Irene Fletcher