

Delegated Decision

Sign off Sheet

Ref. No:	DM/25/2756	Case Officer:	Irene Fletcher
Application Type:	Tree Surgery		
Proposal:	Oak tree - Fell		
Site:	12 North Court, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8JS, , , ,		
Validation Date	27 Oct 2025	Overall Expiry Date:	18 Nov 2025
Pre-Commencement Conditions Required:		Pre-Com Conditions Date Agreed:	
Recommendation:	Permission	Recommendation Date:	26 Nov 2025
Target Date:	22 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:	Stephen Ashdown	Date:	2 Dec 2025
Comments:			

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

DM/25/2756

**12 North Court, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8JS, , ,
Oak tree - Fell
Mr Tony Linke**

Permission is sought for the works as described.

The tree is a mature specimen, likely to be a veteran, located in the rear garden.

Permission was granted, under ref DM/24/1497 to reduce the tree to previous pruning points, approx 2m. At the time of this site visit, the tree officer noted a number of decayed fruiting bodies, hollowing and the presence of wood boring insects, indicating dead wood. The presence of fruiting bodies was noted in a previous tree report from 2012.

Subsequent to this, the owner engaged a company to provide a full tree report. It noted some decay but considered that an arial inspection should take place. A tomograph assessment was also carried out. Both reports are included as part of the application.

The report noted significant decay and hollowing, particularly between two, large cavities on the stem. It also noted that the decay in the tree is increasing and will continue to do so. A previous tomograph was carried out around 2019. It is considered that sufficient evidence exists to justify the removal of the tree.

The report also advised that the crown reduction was not enough to reduce the risk of failure. Whilst the tree is not considered to be imminently dangerous, nevertheless, it is a huge tree, and the report notes the risks from extreme weather events, which are becoming more common. Taking a pragmatic view, it would appear that the tree will have to be removed at some stage, as the decay increases and, potentially, damage from fruiting bodies will also increase.

Whilst the loss of a tree of this age it regrettable, nevertheless, sufficient evidence exists to justify the removal of the tree and safety is the primary concern.

Whilst the parish council comments are noted, and the tree undoubtedly supports a wide range of biodiversity, in this case safety takes precedence. The law does not allow local authorities to require wildlife reports on trees, however, the usual informative will be attached. Further, the tree officer does not agree that basal decay is not a reason to fell a tree.

Permission is recommended.

Decision: Permission

Case Officer: Irene Fletcher