

Delegated Decision

Sign off Sheet

Ref. No:	DM/25/0729	Case Officer:	Irene Fletcher
Application Type:	Tree Surgery		
Proposal:	Removal of Lawson cypress identified as T12C12 and T11C12. Removal of Beech identified as T13U		
Site:	Former St Francis Hospital, Cowell Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 4SG, , ,		
Validation Date	18 Mar 2025	Overall Expiry Date:	10 Apr 2025
Pre-Commencement Conditions Required:		Pre-Com Conditions Date Agreed:	
Recommendation:	Split Decision	Recommendation Date:	23 Apr 2025
Target Date:	13 May 2025	Recommending Officer Signature:	Irene Fletcher

Date Legal Agreement Completed: (if applicable)		No of Representations:	0
--	--	-------------------------------	---

Signed and Agreed By:	Beth Howland-Smith	Date:	29 Apr 2025
Comments:			

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

DM/25/0729

**Former St Francis Hospital, Cowell Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 4SG, ,
Removal of Lawson cypress identified as T12C12 and T11C12. Removal of Beech identified as
T13U**

Mr Darren Tancred

Permission is sought for the works as described.

The trees are located in a prominent position on a small bank above, and adjacent to, Colwell Lane. They form part of a woodland Order and provide substantial screening along the frontage, both of the old hospital buildings and some of the newer builds.

A tree report was requested and has now been provided.

The conifers are mature specimens with their defects being identified as ' unbalanced crown ' and ' crown balanced to the north '. This would be normal in the case of trees growing closely together and the trees appear to be structurally sound, although in close proximity to an old hospital building. The beech was identified as having substantial crown die back and is a drawn specimen with some defects, although a full examination was not possible. It was classified as a U category tree in the tree report.

Of relevance to this application is recent planning history. An application to remove the building and replace with two houses was refused twice and dismissed at appeal. Application DM/23/2831 for prior approval to convert the existing building to residential was approved. However, a prior approval does not override a TPO. The issue of light was considered during the course of the prior approval.

In this case, the screening which the conifers provide is considered extremely valuable, particularly since the building is in an elevated position above the road. Further, the trees have no significant defects and it is not considered that there is sufficient justification to remove them.

A split decision is recommended.

Decision: Split Decision

Case Officer: Irene Fletcher