

Delegated Decision

Sign off Sheet

Ref. No:	DM/25/1492	Case Officer:	Irene Fletcher
Application Type:	Tree Surgery		
Proposal:	(T1) Oak - Fell		
Site:	Former Site Of Tavistock And Summerhill School, Summerhill Lane, Lindfield, West Sussex, , , ,		
Validation Date	9 Jun 2025	Overall Expiry Date:	1 Jul 2025
Pre-Commencement Conditions Required:		Pre-Com Conditions Date Agreed:	
Recommendation:	Permission	Recommendation Date:	23 Jul 2025
Target Date:	4 Aug 2025	Recommending Officer Signature:	Irene Fletcher

Date Legal Agreement Completed: (if applicable)		No of Representations:	1
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Signed and Agreed By:	Beth Howland-Smith	Date:	23 Jul 2025
Comments:			

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

DM/25/1492

**Former Site Of Tavistock And Summerhill School, Summerhill Lane, Lindfield, West Sussex, , ,
(T1) Oak - Fell**

Permission is sought for the works as described.

The tree is located in a prominent location in Summerhill Lane, which is characterised by trees and greenery. There is another oak on this verge, fronting the lane.

Two representations have been received, one requesting information as to why the tree has to be removed, the other attaching a tree report, which they had received from the owner of the tree, and questioning why the tree had to be removed when the report had not advised this. The report is dated 22/5/25.

The tree report advised that the tree be pruned and re inspected within a year. However the tree report also advised that there was only 35 - 40% live growth and that the tree was in long term decline. It noted the presence of a large dryadeus bracket fungus on the root, which is known to cause root decay. The tree is also a lapsed pollard.

These are all risk factors for the tree, which is located in a high target area.

At the time of the tree officer's visit, the tree appeared to show greater crown death than specified. She was also able to observe the decayed remains of a large fruiting body. Of most concern was the extensive basal decay.

There is always a balance when considering whether a tree should be removed. Bearing in mind the high target area, the current adverse environmental conditions, the apparant decline of the tree since the tree report, the extensive basal decay, the presence of a large, parasitic fruiting body, and its previous pruning history, it is considered that the risk of retaining the tree outweighs its high amenity value.

Subject to a condition requiring a replacement tree, permission is recommended.

Decision: Permission

Case Officer: Irene Fletcher