

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 3rd December 2025

Case Officer: Susan Haley
Reference: AL/99/25/T
Location: Caigers Cottage, Westergate Street, Westergate, PO20 3SQ
Proposal: Fell 1no. oak (T1).
Reason: Risk management

Comments on Application:

T1 Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

From a distance this tree is clearly stressed physiologically, although it presents an attractive crown profile. It is multi-stemmed and there are voids between buttress roots. Active fungal brackets (*Ganoderma applanatum/australe*) formed in a cavity on south side near ground level.

Decline is evidenced by low crown density, high major deadwood content, widespread tip dieback, absence of an epicormic growth response, poor woundwood response and small cavity formation at sites of branch loss.

A recent attempt to establish a replacement oak tree, as instructed by condition one of decision notice granting consent to fell a neighbouring oak tree (planning application ref. AL/144/23/T), appears to have failed. The loss of T1 tree will further reduce the number of oak trees locally (preserved by TPO/AL/1/87) from four to one, with no replacement yet established.

Conclusions:

This latest impact on the visual amenities of the locality is unfortunate but necessary, as there is a developing hazard which risks harm to persons and property. A suitable replacement tree can be secured by condition.

It is hoped that the stump will be left at a useful height above ground level, to conserve biodiversity. The retention of deadwood and stumps can provide valuable habitats for plants and wildlife which may be protected under other legislation.

Recommendation:

We grant consent for this application subject to the following condition:

Condition 1

Once the tree has been felled then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within ten metres, free from the interference of established tree canopy so that it may develop an upright and uniform crown. It is proposed that the most suitable location is where it can be viewed most easily from Belle Meade Close (what3words: ///funds.exams.begins).

This is to be of Selected Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads. It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the oak tree (T1). The species shall be pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur*.

The newly planted tree must be viable for long-term retention in the landscape after a period of five years from the date of this decision notice. Any tree dead, dying or considered unviable for long-term retention by the council's tree officer, will need to be replaced to the satisfaction of the local planning authority within 12 months of that determination.

Reasons: To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick

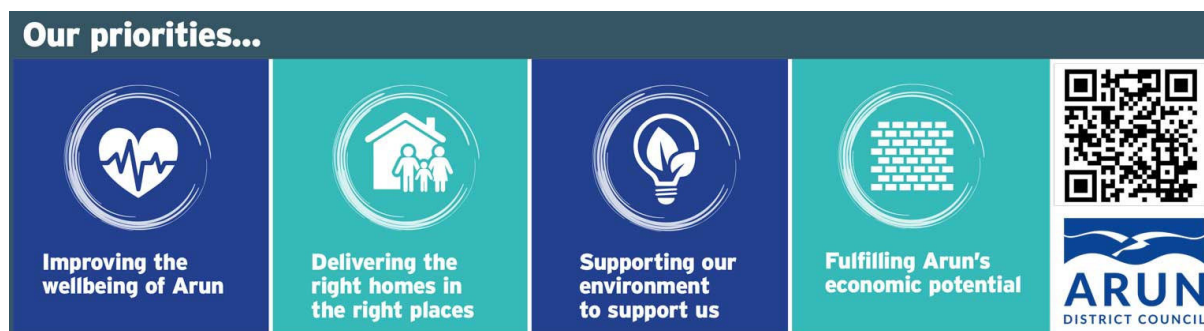
Tree Officer

Environment and Climate Change

PL-Consultation -Tree Officer response

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
www.arun.gov.uk

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From: Mark Warwick <Mark.Warwick@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: 04 December 2025 14:54
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Susan Haley <Susan.Haley@arun.gov.uk>; Freya Clewley <Freya.Clewley@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: AL/99/25/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Regards,

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer, Environment and Climate Change

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
www.arun.gov.uk