

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of report: 1st October 2026

Reference: FG/83/26/T
Proposal: Fell 1no. weeping willow (T1)
Location: 48 Langbury Lane, Ferring, BN12 6QA
Case Officer: Jonny Cooper
Reason: Poor condition (structural)

Comments on Application:

Weeping willow, golden / *Salix x sepulcralis* 'Chrysocoma'

Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

I have considered this application by means of a desktop review, using the information submitted as well as online resources. I attended site but was unable to gain a close enough view of the tree to carry out my own comprehensive ground level assessment. I therefore sought further reassurance from the agent who have kindly provided me with photographic evidence to support their statement.

The tree is visible from the public realm and makes a positive and welcome contribution to the local landscape. Despite the obvious site constraints, it is a suitable location for a large tree, which can provide great visual amenity.

Conclusions:

I appreciate the loss of this tree would be keenly felt, but am satisfied it possesses little safe, useful life expectancy now that major parts are structurally defective or dead/dying. The structural integrity of this type of tree can degrade rapidly and large-part failure in older trees such as this is not uncommon.

The extent of pollarding necessary to mitigate the risk of harm or obstruction of main river, would effectively destroys its amenity offer. The removal of the tree provides an opportunity for the local planning authority to secure a replacement tree type at the same location.

Recommendation:

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

Condition 1

Once the tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within five metres, free from the interference of established and developing tree canopy so that it may develop an upright and uniform crown towards maturity. This is to be

of minimum 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 willow tree.

The species shall be:- **Lombardy poplar** *Populus nigra Italica*

The selected tree(s) must be viable for long-term retention in the landscape after a period of five years from the date of this decision notice. If at any time within this period it is found dead, dying or considered unviable for long-term retention by the council's tree officer, it will need to be replaced to the satisfaction of the local planning authority within 12months of that determination.

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

Mark Warwick

Principal Tree Officer

Environment and Climate Change

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Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
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From: Mark Warwick [REDACTED]
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Cc: Jonny Cooper <Jonny.Cooper@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: FG/83/26/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Kind regards

Mark Warwick
Principal Tree Officer, Environment and Climate Change

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