

Planning Officer : Damian Sullivan

Planning Application Ref: LU111/14/T

Location : Sandfield House, Lyminster Road, Wick

Description of works: Fell 1 no Horse Chestnut

Applicants Reasons: Is severely decayed at ground level and represents a safety risk to the public

Comments On Application:

T2 Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* Height – 16m : Radial Crown Spread – 6m : Age – Mature

- Previously heavily topped out.
- There is a large cavity at ground level which extends down into the roots.
- The wood is soft and friable and undermines the safety of this tree.
- Given that it is positioned close to the road and a level crossing there is a very real risk to the public at large.
- Felling the tree is totally justified and should be undertaken at the earliest possible opportunity.

Recommendation:

I **Approve** of the removal of this tree on safety grounds and in view of the density of tree cover along this road frontage would not see any need to plant a replacement tree on this occasion.

Advisory :

The Tree Surgeons will need to undertake their own Risk Assessment before tackling the take down operation on this tree and in view of the levels of decay I would suggest that putting a man in the tree and tied in to it represents too high a risk and this work should be undertaken using a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (Cherry Picker).

Bernie Harverson Consultant Arboriculturist

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

