

Arun District Council – Tree Condition Report & Justification for Removal

Species: *Malus coronaria* (American Crab-apple)

Location: Easternmost tree within the existing row

1. Background

A small group of ornamental trees is located along the eastern boundary of the property. Over recent years, all trees in this group have shown signs of stress and decline. In response, the ground and trees were professionally treated to address soil health, nutrient deficiency, and pest/disease pressures.

Following this intervention, **all trees within the group have recovered well**, with the exception of the **American Crab-apple situated on the eastern end of the row**. Despite the same treatment regime, this individual tree has **continued to deteriorate**.

A tree surgeon has inspected the tree and confirmed that its condition has not improved and is now considered structurally and physiologically compromised.

2. Current Condition Assessment

The American Crab-apple displays the following symptoms:

- **Appears dead.**
- **Poor response** to soil and health treatments that successfully restored the neighbouring trees
- **Weak union structure** and reduced anchorage, increasing the likelihood of partial or full failure

The tree surgeon's assessment concludes that the tree is **in irreversible decline** and is **no longer structurally reliable**.

3. Risk Considerations

Due to its deteriorating condition, the tree now presents:

- **An elevated risk of branch or whole-tree failure**, particularly during high winds
- **A potential hazard to the adjacent healthy trees**, as structural failure could damage them
- **A risk to property and persons**, given its proximity to the boundary and access areas

Retaining a tree in this condition would be inconsistent with good arboricultural practice and could expose the landowner to avoidable risk.

4. Justification for Removal

Removal is justified on the following grounds:

- 1. Irreversible decline** – The tree has not responded to professional treatment that successfully restored the others.
- 2. Structural instability** – The tree surgeon has confirmed that the tree is now at risk of failure.
- 3. Protection of surrounding trees** – Removing the failing specimen prevents potential damage to the healthy trees in the row.
- 4. Good arboricultural management** – Selective removal of a declining tree is consistent with maintaining the long-term health and safety of the group.

5. Replanting Proposal

To maintain canopy continuity and biodiversity, replacement planting has already been undertaken. **Juneberry (Amelanchier)** trees have been planted and are establishing well. These species are:

- Well-suited to local soil and climatic conditions
- Known for good disease resistance
- Appropriate in scale and character for the setting

This ensures no net loss of tree cover and supports the long-term landscape value of the site.

6. Conclusion

The American Crab-apple on the eastern side of the row is in **significant decline**, poses a **genuine risk of failure**, and has **not recovered** despite appropriate arboricultural intervention. Removal is therefore necessary on safety and management grounds. Replacement planting is already in place and thriving, ensuring the continued amenity value of the site.



Tree Viewed from within site



Tree Viewed from The Street