



TREE CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Application No	2025/0312
Proposal	Remove Ash tree shown on plan within TPO 17/2005.
Address	2 Ashtree Gardens, Millhouse Green, S36 9AD.
Date of Consultation Reply	01/08/2025
Consultee	Edward Jowett (Tree Officer)

Consultation Assessment and Justification

The tree is a large mature Ash tree which has been retained and protected as part of the development and forms part of a wider group of trees; its prominent location means it has significant amenity value.

The works proposed are to remove the tree due to its physical condition, with the photos provided demonstrating the tree beginning to decay at old pruning points along with the presence of *Daldinia concentrica* a fungus which lives on dead and dying wood. The tree does not appear to be an imminent danger but its continued decline despite efforts to revive it via significant pruning back in 2011 is evident. The positioning of the wounds with the onset of decay mean that many significant branch unions in the canopy are compromised and the attached limbs at a greater risk of failure.

Ultimately the tree is very much in decline with some significant structural issues, it is therefore with great reluctance that I must agree with the need to remove the tree before it does become a significant hazard with its proximity to the house and it overhanging the main route into the estate being of particular concern given the issues of decay at branch unions.

Replacement planting will be required to mitigate for the loss of the tree, however given the current issues with Ash trees it is not sensible to use these as a replacement at present. I have therefore suggested Hornbeam as a suitable substitute due to it being native and of a similar stature to Ash.

Note: Assessments of tree condition and safety are based on a simple visual inspection from ground level. Comments should not be taken as a definitive assessment of tree health, as this should be carried out by a suitably qualified arboriculturist, possibly including a high level inspection. The applicant should be reminded of the owner's legal responsibilities to ensure that trees are regularly inspected and maintained in a safe condition.

NO OBJECTION*

Defer for amends/further information*

OBJECT*

*Delete as applicable

Planning Obligations required: