Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 09/05/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/0333/25**
Address	**11 Farncombe Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 2AY**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.42 of 1995 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 4 to 5 metres one Holm Oak tree T2.**

Date of site visit: 01/04/25

Neighbours checked: Y
Additional neighbour notifications: N
Site notice: (wider publicity / conservation area): N

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a large mature Holm Oak located near the southeast corner of the front garden adjacent to the footpath of Farncombe Road. The tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a positive contribution to the character and visual amenities of the Farncombe Road Conservation Area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread Holm Oak tree T2.

The reasons for the works are primarily in the interests of safety, light issues and amenity value.

Consultations: Letter sent to The Worthing Society, who did not respond.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1985: The property is included within Conservation Area VII (Farncombe Road) Designated by the Council on 7th November 1985.

1995: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 42 of 1995 confirmed on 04/12/1995.

2002: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 42/1995 to remove lower branches, eastern side, to a height of 3 metres over the pavement to one Holm Oak (T2).

2008: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 42 of 1995 to reduce one Bay by 50% (within Group G1).

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.42 of 1995 to shorten branch on west side to clear building by 2.5m, remove branches interfering with phone line by up to approximately 0.5m to source/union and crown lift by up to 4m of one Holm Oak tree (T2)

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Holm Oak growing on raised land in the front grounds adjacent to the road, and southern boundary wall. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The Holm Oak tree T2 has a large diameter compound stem that extends to 2 to 3 metres, where the component stems begin to separate. This forms a wide spread tightly forked array of smaller more slender stems that mostly persist to the top. The tree is dense and low at the perimeter of the wide spread crown, where some laterals are slightly over laden. The Eastern side of the tree has recently lost two main stems that have severed from near ground level. This has made the tree's crown unbalanced and may compromise its structure in the future.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 4 to 5 metres. The works are relatively major and would not normally be considered for a tree of this size. However due to recent damage it is considered that the reduction in weight in the crown is required.

These works in my opinion would be relatively large in relation to the overall size, spread and crown form of the tree and will affect its appearance, however the works are considered necessary to ensure the continued amenity value of the tree and its contribution to the character of the Farncombe Road Conservation Area.

Recommendation

APPROVE

Grant Consent, subject to the following Conditions:

1. Approved plans

2. The proposed works, hereby permitted, shall be restricted to those specified in the application only unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority and carried out within two years from the date of consent and in accordance with the British Standard BS 3998: 2010 Tree Work.

   Reason: *In the interest of visual amenity.*

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation?

No

Case Officer: JDS Date: 09/05/2025

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 09/05/2025