Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 25/04/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/0233/25**
Address	**70 Grand Avenue Worthing West Sussex BN11 5AD**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.7 of 2003 to fell and replace one Sweet Chestnut tree T9.**

Date of site visit: 08/04/25

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 Sweet Chestnut tree located on the Southern boundary l adjacent to the shared driveway that serves the flats. The tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to fell and replace the tree.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: One representation received from a nearby neighbour in objection, stating that the Sweet Chestnut is a beautiful tree all year round and has great aesthetic value, and its loss will have a huge negative effect on that aesthetic value

Relevant Planning History

2003: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 7 of 2003 confirmed on 29/04/2003.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Sweet Chestnut growing in the front grounds, on its southern boundary adjacent to Lansdowne Road. The tree is prominent to the area and can be seen from many views.

The tree has several stems that emerge in a circular formation from a common source above ground level. The stems each persist to 10 metres before dividing into widespread secondary stems and laterals. The first laterals emerge from 2 metres. There is some deadwood present including a large dead limb to the south, and a dead main stem that has been terminated at 2 metres. The main crown is dense and widespread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to fell and replace the tree, due to severe damage and decay at the base. Although some callousing over has occurred the decay extends below the stems and is more advanced on the stems to the south and southeast.

These works in my opinion will be large in relation to the overall number of trees and a significant amount of change will take place. However, the effect on the area will be compensated with the provision of a replacement tree.

Recommendation

APPROVE

Grant Consent, subject to the following Conditions:

1. Approved plans

2. The Proposed felling of the Sweet Chestnut tree T9 and its replacement shall be carried out in full within two years from the date of this consent and in accordance with details of the size, species and position of the replacement tree planting to be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

   Reason: *In the interest of visual amenity.*

3. If within five years following replanting, the replacement tree dies or becomes seriously diseased, another tree of the same size and species shall be planted in a similar position during the next planting season following the removal of the replacement tree, unless the Local Planning Authority gives written approval to any variation.

   Reason: *In the interest of visual amenity.*

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation?

Yes, an objection was made suggesting the tree has a significant effect on the visual amenity of the area - however the condition of the tree necessitates its removal.

Case Officer: JDS Date: 25/04/2025

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 25.04.2025