Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 11/04/14**

Application Number **AWDM/0223/14**

Site Address: **Southwick Community Centre 24 Southwick Street BN42 4TE**

Proposal: **Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to fell one Lime tree in the Southwick Conservation Area.**

Date of site visit: 05/03/14

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a single Lime tree growing in the Southeast of the main car parking area for the Community Centre. The tree is visible from many views around the junction of Southwick Street and Southdown Road.

Consent is sought to fell the tree.

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

Consultations: None

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1976: The Southwick Conservation Area was first designated in June 1976

Planning Assessment

The tree is a mature medium to large sized tree growing in a small border adjacent to the main entrance foyer to the Community Centre. The tree is visible from many views.

The tree is around 15 metres tall, with a single stem to 2 metres, after which it becomes multi-stemmed. The crown breaks at 6-8 metres, into a rounded form, that has been created by being reduced in several stages.

The proposed works are to fell and remove the tree, based on initial considerations that the tree would prevent the installation of a new covered canopy, and that it would cause damage to the building and drainage.

The suspected damage to the building and underground sewer pipes was not substantiated by an engineers report, and the installation of a new canopy could be carried out by using solutions that could allow the canopy and the tree to remain.

Recommendation

REFUSE for the reason(s):-

1. The tree is an established feature of the Community Centre and the area, and can be seen from many viewpoints. It is considered important to the visual amenity and character of the Southwick Conservation Area that the tree is protected and retained.

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation?

No

Case Officer: JDS Date: 11/04/2014

Authorised by: PD Date: 11.4.14