Development Management - Delegated Officer Report

Application Number: **Recommendation – Approve**
AWDM/0500/12

Site: **9 Grantsmead, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 0PG**

Proposal: **Crown lift Hawthorn to 3-3.5m (works to a tree subject to tree preservation order 162/1/84/L)**

Date of site visit: 10 May 2012

Neighbours checked: Y

Additional neighbour notifications: N

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application relates to a hawthorn tree growing in front (north) of 9 Grantsmead. The tree is subject of a Tree Preservation Order 162/1/84/L.

The hawthorn is approximately 8m in height and is located at the entrance to Grantsmead where it forms a prominent feature. Its branches overhang the driveway at the entrance to 9 Grantsmead and the pavement and it is need of pruning.

Permission is sought to lift the crown to 3.5m as the lower branches are hanging quite low to the ground.

Consultations

Adur & Worthing Councils: The Council's Parks Officer states that the tree is in generally good health with no obvious signs of damage or decay. The crown of the tree is very dense and begins low down on the trunk. The proposed works will create a slimmer, more compact tree that is less imposing.

Lancing Parish Council: No objection

Representations

Third parties: There have been no third party objections.

Relevant Planning Policies
The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order) (England) Regulations 2012
National Planning Policy Framework (CLG 2012)

Planning Assessment

Visual amenity

The hawthorn has good crown shape at its highest part, however has additional visual weight at the base of the crown where it overhangs the footpath and driveway of No.76. The loss of this weight from the base of the tree would not adversely impact the long term growth or appearance of the tree and will contribute to the improvement of pedestrian accessibility and vehicular intervisibility in the immediate vicinity.

Recommendation

APPROVE subject to:

1. C1Ciii
2. C11M4 – Crown lift hawthorn to 3.5m

Informatives:-

- Informative 1 to include reference to both the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
- Informative 2 to advise the use of a professional tree surgeon.

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation? N

Case Officer: P Barnett Date: 7 June 2012

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 14 June 2012