Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 03/11/15**

Application Number	**AWDM/1509/15**
Address	**11 Amelia Close Southwick BN42 4AJ**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Adur Tree Preservation Order TPO 13.53-2-15(SW) of 2015 to remove back to suitable point nearest source the Western stem, reduce up to 5 to 6 metres to suitable point the northern stem, reduce radial spread by up to 2 to 3 metres, and crown lift up to 7 metres one Holm Oak tree T1**

Date of site visit: 07/10/15

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a single Holm Oak tree in the rear garden of 11 Amelia Close. The tree is part of a number established trees, which are mostly within the Public Open space of Croft Avenue Rest Gardens directly to the west of the property. The tree is a part of the street scene and make a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the Southwick Conservation Area.

Consent is sought to reduce radial spread, crown lift and to re-balance the crown.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: One received from nearby neighbour that was in support of the application.

Relevant Planning History

2015: Adur Tree Preservation order Number 13.53-2-15(SW) of 2015 confirmed on 28/09/15.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature growing in the rear garden of 11 Amelia Close adjacent to the public open space of Croft Avenue Rest Gardens. The tree is visible from many views around Croft Avenue and Southwick Street. The tree is multi-stemmed from ground level, with three main stems that are clear up to 5 to 7 metres. The main crown is on the left side of the tree, where two equal side stems arch over at 8 metres leading to low hanging secondary branches and an over-extended crown width.

A smaller secondary spire has also emerged on the south side of the tree, which is formed of some damaged and distorted growth. The crown is dense and very wide on its north-south axis,

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread by up to 2 to 3 metres, and crown lift up to 7 metres, also in addition remove the Western stem, and reduce the northern stem by up to 5 to 6 metres, all stems being cut back to a suitable point. This work is to rebalance the tree, and allow more light to pass around and beneath the crown.

These works in my opinion will be large in relation to the overall size and form of the tree and a significant amount of reduction will take place. However the affect on the trees appearance will not be detrimental as the result will be to improve its amenity value and its contribution to the character of the area.

Recommendation

Grant Consent, subject to the following Conditions:

1. Proposed works, hereby permitted, shall be restricted to those specified in the application, only, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the LPA, 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: 03/12/2015

Authorised by: PD Date: 3.12.15