Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 27/02/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/0020/25**
Address	**Florence House 30 First Avenue Worthing West Sussex BN14 9NJ**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.37 of 2003 to reduce crown height by up to 2 to 3 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres and crown lift up to 5 metres, Silver Birch T41.**

Date of site visit: 27/02/25

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a large mature Silver Birch located near the centre of the Western boundary wall adjacent to the crossover from First Avenue. The tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread by and to crown lift.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

2003: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 37 of 2003 confirmed on 22/01/2004.

2011: Application to trim back the surface root, covering the drain, and to crown reduce one Copper Beech tree (T39)

2014: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 37 of 2003 to reduce crown height 2 metres, reduce radial spread up to 1 metre and crown thin up to 20% one Purple Beech (T39) one Fastigiate Silver Birch (T40) and one Silver Birch (T41)

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Silver Birch growing in the front garden of the recent development of Florence House, in the former grounds of 32 First Avenue. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

This tree has a single stem to 6 metres, where it then divides into three main stems that have each been reduced at 8 metres with long very slender re-growths. The first limbs emerge from 2.25 metres. The main crown is moderately dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 2 to 3 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres and crown lift up to 5 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow access beneath the crown.

These works in my opinion would be relatively minor in relation to the overall size, spread and crown form of the tree and would not significantly or adversely affect its appearance, amenity value, or its contribution to the character of the 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: 27/02/2025

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 28/02/2025