Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 13/08/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/0712/25**
Address	**St Georges Church St Georges Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 2DS**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.17 of 1978 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 to 4 metres and crown thin up to 20% three Holm Oak trees of group G1.**

Date of site visit: 06/08/25

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a cluster of large mature Holm Oak trees to the centre of the grassed grounds north of the main Church building. The trees are a prominent part of the street scene and make a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread and crown thin Holm Oak trees of group G1.

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: Church building made Grade II listed 21/05/76

1978: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 17 of 1978 confirmed on 01/05/1979.

2008: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.17 of 1978 to crown lift to 3 to 4 metres, remove heavy/low horizontal branch at approximately 3 metres height, and crown reduce height and spread of Holm Oak (southern specimen, nearest church) by approximately 2 metres; crown lift second Holm Oak (western specimen) to 3 to 4 metres and dead wood; and crown lift third Holm Oak (eastern specimen) to 3 to 4 metres - trees within Group G1).

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.17 of 1978 to reduce height and radial spread by up to 4m and crown lift 5m to 3 Holm Oak trees of group G1.

Planning Assessment
The trees are a group of three large mature Holm Oak trees growing in close proximity to each other in the grassed area to the north of the main Church building. The trees are visible from many views but most prominent from Church Walk, near its junction with St Georges Road.

The three trees are:

Holm T1 of G1
This tree is to the south of the group, it has a large diameter single stem that arches outward toward the southeast. At 6 metres the main stem divides into several large diameter long laterals that extend toward the Church.

Holm T2 of G1
The Holm tree T2, is to the northwest of the group. The tree consists of a single stem to 1.5 metres, where it then becomes twin with each stem being slender and angled over, extending outwards toward the west and south. The two over arched secondary stems are over extended and have separate spires.

Holm T3 of G1
The third tree is to the northeast, and is the largest of the three trees. The main stem is single up to 2 metres, where it then has two large diameter stems that persist up to 6 metres, where they both begin to divide. T3 is the tallest of the three trees.

The main crown is combined, with all three trees being intertwined to form a large dense and wide spread crown. All three of the trees have deep cavities and large areas of compartmentalised decay in the main stems.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 to 4 metres and crown thin up to 20%. Although the condition of the trees is not considered to be a serious compromise, the proposed works will reduce weight and pressure on the main stems and are cautionary works to help ensure the longevity of the group.

These works in my opinion would be relatively minor in relation to the overall size, spread and crown form of the trees and would not significantly or adversely affect their appearance, amenity value, or 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: 13/08/2025
Authorised by:	Louise Prew	Date: 13/08/2025