Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 17/12/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/1274/26**
Address	**Gardeners Arms West Street Sompting West Sussex BN15 0AR**
Proposal	**Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to reduce crown height by up to 4 to 5 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres and crown lift up to 2.5 metres Weeping Willow T1 in the Sompting Conservation Area.**

Date of site visit: 16/10/25

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 Weeping Willow located near the centre of the Southern boundary in the car parking area. The tree is a prominent part of the local landscape and makes a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the Sompting Conservation Area.

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

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

Consultations: Letter sent to ACAAG - Adur Conservation Area Advice Group who did not respond.

Representations: One representation received from Sompting Parish Council, in support of the work.

Relevant Planning History

1992: The property is within the Sompting Conservation Area. This was confirmed by Adur District Council on 24/11/1992.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Willow growing in the rear grounds. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree has a large diameter single stem to 5 metres, where it then divides into two. The Northern stem is mostly upright and persists to 10 metres before dividing again, the southern stem is more arching outward and begins to divide from 8 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 4 to 5 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres and crown lift up to 2.5 metres.

The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree, remove damaged secondary limbs, allow access beneath and allow more light and air to pass the crown.

These works in my opinion would be relatively large in relation to the overall size, spread and crown form of the tree, but less than the more usual pollarding that is normally carried out to Weeping Willow trees. The works would not significantly or adversely affect its appearance, amenity value, or its contribution to the character of the Sompting Conservation Area.

Recommendation

Grant Consent, Not subject to Conditions:

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation?

No

Case Officer: JDS Date: 17/12/2025

Authorised by: PB Date: 17/12/25