Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 14/10/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/0939/25**
Address	**St Marys Catholic Primary School Cobden Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 4BD**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.19 of 1991 to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres, and crown lift up to 4 metres one Horse Chestnut tree T1.**

Date of site visit: 27/08/25

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a large Horse Chestnut tree T1, situated in the north-western part of the school playground on a raised bed. 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, 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

1991: The Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 19 of 1991 made and confirmed. This included a pair of Horse Chestnut trees, G1, in the north-western part of the school playground adjacent to the building, an individual Horse Chestnut, T1 in the southern part of the playground and a second pair of Horse Chestnuts, G2 and a Hawthorn, T2 in the south-eastern part of the grounds adjacent to Amelia Park.

1994: Consent granted to remove lower branches and dead and damaged limbs on the two Horse Chestnut trees, G1 and remove lower branches on the individual Horse Chestnut, T1 (WB/94/0211/T).

2003: Consent granted to remove low branches to 6 metres, crown thin by 20%, remove dead wood and reduce the height by 1 - 2 metres on the two Horse Chestnuts G1, and remove low branches and one large limb on tree T1 (WB/03/00467/TPO).

2004: The southernmost of the two Horse Chestnut trees in G1 succumbed to disease and was removed, for which the Council's consent was not required.

2010: An application for consent to fell the individual Horse Chestnut, T1 and to fell the remaining Horse Chestnut in G1 was received but later withdrawn (29th March 2010).

2012: Application AWDM/1056/11 to fell the Horse Chestnut tree (G1) validated; later withdrawn 11th July 2012.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Horse Chestnut growing in north-western part of the school playground on a raised bed, where it is visible from the public footpath within the adjacent Victoria Park. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree has a large diameter single stem to 6 to 7 metres, where it then divides into several stems that form a wide array with a slightly flattened top. The first branches emerge from 2 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended and lower hanging laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres, and crown lift up to 4 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 description 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: 14/10/2025

Authorised by: LPrew Date: 16/10/2025