Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 17/01/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/1241/24**
Address	**16 St Michaels Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 4SD**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.35 of 1980 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres Bay tree T4.**

Date of site visit: 08/01/25

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a large tall mature Bay tree located near the centre of the northern boundary wall. The tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the Heene Conservation Area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread.

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

Consultations: Letter sent to The Worthing Society, who did not respond.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1980: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 35 of 1980 confirmed on 10/02/1981.

1985: The property is included within Conservation Area VI (Heene), designated by the Council on 31st January 1985.

2009: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.35 of 1980 to reduce Bay (T4) by 35% and to shape crown of Holly (T3); and to undertake the following works to the trees in the Heene Conservation Area within the site: fell one Eucalyptus, crown lift two Sycamore to 4 metres, trim back from house one further Sycamore and shape crown of second Holly tree.

2011: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 3 of 2011 confirmed on 17/08/2011.

2025: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.3 of 2011 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres Sycamore tree T3, and Yew tree T5, and to reduce radial spread by up to 3 metres, one Sycamore tree T1.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Bay growing in the rear garden close to the Northwest corner of the main building. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree has four stems from ground level; two main larger stems to the North and East and two more slender stems that are upright and tightly forked to the West. All of the stems begin to divide from 2 to 3 metres, forming a wide array. The first branches and foliage emerge from 2 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some protruding over extended laterals and stems.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree, and to shape its 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 Heene Conservation 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:17/01/2025

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 17.01.2025