Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 13/09/19**

Application Number	**AWDM/1251/19**
Address	**Southwick Community Centre 24 Southwick Street Southwick West Sussex BN42 4TE**
Proposal	**Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to fell Cherry tree T1 within Southwick Conservation Area.**

Date of site visit: 21/09/19

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a medium sized mature Cherry located toward the east of the front car park, close to the main building. The tree is a part of the street scene and makes a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the Southwick Conservation Area.

Consent is sought to fell the tree.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1976: The Southwick Conservation Area was first designated in June 1976

2009: Crown lift 2 no. Ash, Horse Chestnut and Sycamore and fell Elder and Sycamore (6 weeks prior notice of works to trees in Conservation Area) on grass verge to rear of Community Centre fronting Glebe Close

2014: Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to fell one Lime tree in the Southwick Conservation Area. Refused TPO made 2014.

2015: Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to crown lift up to 2.5 metres crown thin 30% one Cherry tree T1, Remove epicormic / young growth from trunk one Sycamore tree T2, and to remove four selected branches near wall and guttering of one Cherry tree T4, in the Southwick Conservation Area.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a mature Cherry growing in a small border to the east of the car park, adjacent to the tallest part of the building near the large name plate. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

This is a small ornamental grafted Cherry, with a single stem to 2 metres, where the mainly horizontal scaffold limbs emerge. The main crown is dense and wide spread, making the tree slightly top heavy. There are several areas of damage and decay in the main stem and limbs, and areas of defoliation and dying leaves in the crown.

The proposed works are to fell the tree due to damage and disease.

These works in my opinion will be large in relation to the overall number of trees and a significant amount of change will take place. However the works are necessary and the effect on the Southwick Conservation Area's amenity value and character will be minimal.

Recommendation

Grant Consent, Not subject to Conditions:

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation?

No

Case Officer: JDS Date: 13/09/2019

Authorised by: PB Date: 13/9/19