From: **Boyana Staneva** [redacted]
Date: Thu, 10 Jul 2025 at 21:47
Subject: AWDM/0660/25 Application comment
To: <planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk>

Dear Planning Team,
I am writing with regard to the Section 211 application proposing the removal of several trees at 172 Heene Road. AWDM/0660/25. I am unable to leave a comment on the application portal, as it results in an error. I hope the comment can still be considered at this stage.

While I appreciate the applicant's concerns and the effort to improve the space, I would like to respectfully object to the proposed works in their current form.

1. Lack of sufficient evidence for full removal
The application states that the cypress trees have outgrown the plot, cause shading, and are damaging a wall, while the holly trees have limited amenity value. However, there is no evidence provided to confirm that these trees cannot be managed through less drastic means—such as selective pruning, crown reduction, or reshaping.
Given the location within a conservation area, I understand that tree removal should only be permitted when there is a clear and proportionate justification. At present, the application does not demonstrate that alternatives to full removal have been properly explored or ruled out.

It would be helpful to have more information about the health of the trees and whether an independent arboricultural assessment has been carried out. In the absence of this, it seems premature to conclude that removal is the only viable option.

2. Similar trees on Heene Road are routinely maintained, not removed

Heene Road features many mature trees of a similar or even larger size, and it is common practice for the Council or private owners to manage these trees through regular maintenance rather than removal. Pruning, crown thinning, and height reduction are all widely used and successful techniques.

In this context, it is unclear why the trees at 172 Heene Road cannot be treated in a similar way. If these trees are simply causing overhang or contributing to shade, those issues can often be mitigated through targeted management rather than felling.

Street trees in the Heene area—of comparable or larger stature—are regularly pruned rather than felled, suggesting less drastic measures are acceptable and practical. The proposal provides no reasoning as to why Crown-lifts or rebalancing (commonly used by Worthing Tree Officers) would not resolve shading, overhang, or other concerns. Removal of healthy trees with visible amenity value negatively affects the local streetscape and undermines conservation area objectives

3. Amenity and conservation value

Although the hollies may currently appear less symmetrical due to overshadowing, they still contribute to the greenery and character of the street, and their growth may improve if the surrounding canopy is selectively reduced rather than removed. As for the cypresses, they provide screening, wildlife habitat, and visual amenity, particularly in a conservation area where trees play a significant role in the streetscape.

4. Replacement planting unclear

It is positive that the applicant mentions replanting, but no details are provided about the proposed species, size, or locations. Without this, it's difficult to assess whether the amenity value of the lost trees will truly be replaced.

In summary:
There is not enough information to justify the removal of these trees rather than managing them more sensitively

Other large trees on Heene Road are successfully maintained through pruning rather than removal

Tree management should be the first option explored, particularly in a conservation area

If removal is approved, a clear and detailed plan for replacement planting should be a condition.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this representation.I hope the Council will consider whether further assessment could help achieve a balanced solution that addresses any genuine issues while preserving the contribution these trees make to the character of the area. I would be very happy to support a balanced and thoughtful outcome that retains as much green character as possible, while addressing the concerns of the applicant.

Kind Regards,

Boyana Staneva
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