

Application Number	AWDM/0588/26
Address	St Laurence Church Sea Place Worthing West Sussex BN12 4BY
Proposal	Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.65 of 1995 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres and to crown lift up to 3 metres, Yew tree T3.

Date of site visit: 07/07/26

Neighbours checked: Y

Additional neighbour notifications: N

Site notice: (wider publicity / conservation area): N

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a large mature Yew located in the southeast corner of the frontage near the pavement of Sea Place and adjacent to the front garden of 49 Sea Place. 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 safety, light issues and amenity value.

Consultations: None.

Representations: One representation received on behalf of the Goring and Ilex Conservation Group, suggesting that the tree should be pruned to a maximum of 1 metre to maintain its natural form.

Relevant Planning History

1995: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 65 of 1995 confirmed on 28/02/96.

2006: Application for consent under Worthing Tree preservation Order No. 65 of 1995 to trim by 1 foot extreme branches to northern aspect of one Yew (T3); and trim by 2 foot the lowest limb to southern aspect and next layer branches by up to 1 foot of one Smooth Arizona Cypress (T2).

2007: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 65 of 1995 to reduce up to 3 metres in height the overhanging branches on the south side to one Yew tree (T3).

2012: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 65 of 1995 to reduce overhanging branches on one Yew tree (T3) on south side by one metre, to a height of 6m, over the boundary of No.49 Sea Place.

2016: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 65 of 1995 to crown lift up to 2 metres and reduce radial spread by up to 1 metre one Crab Apple tree T1, and to crown lift up to 2.5 metres and reduce radial spread by up to 1 metre one Yew tree T3.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Yew growing in the front grounds adjacent to Sea Place. The tree is prominent to the area and can be seen from many views.

The tree is single stemmed to 0.5 metres, where the fused stems begin to separate into 4 to 5 tightly forked main stems, becoming fully separated from 6 metres. The central stems mostly persist to within 2 metres of the top. The tree has a crown that is slightly intertwined with a second unprotected Yew tree to the west. The main crown is dense with secondary branches tightly packed into a “thicket” and some lower hanging secondary limbs.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres and to crown lift up to 3 metres. The works are to maintain the size and spread of the tree, allow access beneath and around the lower crown where it spreads across the adjacent public footpath of Sea Place and to the neighbouring driveway.

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 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, the reduction in height is “up to” 2 metres and the intention is to maintain the trees existing natural shape, rather than a formal clipped appearance.

Case Officer: JDS Date: 15/07/2026

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 15.07.2026