Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 18/03/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/1602/24**
Address	**2a Farncombe Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 2BE**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.11 of 2002 to reduce radial spread on selected North and Northwest limbs by up to 2 metres and crown lift up to 5 metres, one Sweet Chestnut tree T2.**

Date of site visit: 04/03/25

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 Sweet Chestnut tree located on the Western boundary close to the Northwest corner of the front garden. The tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the Farncombe Road Conservation Area.

Consent is sought to reduce radial spread on selected North and Northwest limbs and crown lift.

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

Consultations: None

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

2002: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 50 of 2002 confirmed on 16/12/2002.

2003: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.50/2002 to remove lower branches of one White Willow (T1) on north side of tree.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.50 of 2002 to reduce damaged limbs to sound wood, and reduce radial spread to North by up to 1 to 2 metres one White Willow tree T1.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large slightly overmature Sweet Chestnut growing in the front garden adjacent to the pavement and the entrance to staff car park of 4 Farncombe Road. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree has a large diameter single stem to 5 metres, where it then divides into two with each stem dividing again from 5.5 metres, where several large meandering stems emerge. The tree has branches from 1 metre with the first significant limbs emerging from 6 metres. There are a mass of

small “water shoots” from the base of the tree to approximately one metre above the first union, which make the centre of the crown very dense. The main crown is dense and wide spread with no central leaders and a flat top. There are some several wide over extended laterals that support lower hanging tertiary branches.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread on selected North and Northwest limbs by up to 2 metres and crown lift up to 5 metres. The works are to contain the 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 Farncombe Road 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: 18/03/2025

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 27/03/2025