Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 14/03/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/0025/25**
Address	**116 Rectory Road Worthing West Sussex BN14 7PN**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.15 of 2006, to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres, and crown thin up to 15% one Copper Beech Tree T20.**

Date of site visit: 06/03/25

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 Copper Beech located near the centre of the southern boundary of the rear garden. The tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread and crown thin.

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

2006: Worthing Tree Preservation Order No 15 of 2006 confirmed by Worthing Borough Council on 31st October 2006.

2013: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 15 of 2006 to reshape the canopy of one Copper Beech tree (T20) in rear garden by reduction of the longer branches by 3 metres and reduction of main canopy by 1 metre, and remove dead wood (Revised description)

2018: Application under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.15 of 2006 to fell Copper Beech tree in rear garden T20. Refused.

2020: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.15 of 2006, to reduce crown height by up to 2.5 metres and reduce radial spread by up to 3 metres one Copper Beech Tree (T20).

Planning Assessment

The Copper Beech T20 is a large mature tree growing in the rear garden near to the centre of the southern boundary. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree has a large diameter single stem to 2.75 metres, where it then divides into several stems: the largest being central with stems becoming progressively smaller to the sides. The central stem divides again at 4 metres into several stems that form a tightly forked array. The main crown is dense and wide spread, mostly on smaller secondary laterals with some being slightly over extended.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres, and crown thin up to 15%. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow more light and air to pass through 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 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: 14/03/2025

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 14/03/2025