Development Management – Delegated Officer Report 21/09/2026

Application Number AWDM/0895/26

Address 2 Kinfauns Drive Worthing BN13 3BL

Proposal Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 98 of 2001 to remove the two lowest branches on the west side of crown to one Holly tree; and to reduce the lower 1/2 of the crown by a maximum of 3m and remove one damaged limb to the main stem, two Hornbeam trees, trees part of Group G2.

Date of site visit: 07/09/26

Neighbours checked: Y

Additional neighbour notifications: N

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The subject trees (one Holly and two Hornbeam) located within fence line between the residential gardens of number 1 and 2 Kinfauns Drive. The proposed works a repeat operation, being four previous applications for similar works since 2012. The proposed works are in line with good arboricultural practices and will go some way to safeguarding the long term future retention of the subject trees

Consultations: None.

Representations: 11 Furze Close Worthing BN13 3B: objection : The objection raises concerns regarding (i) the repeat nature of the proposed pruning to one holly and two hornbeam, and (ii) potential disturbance to nesting birds.

Officer response: Following assessment, the proposed works are considered proportionate and line with recognised industry best practice. The holly has been subject to previous crown reduction, and the current proposal—removal of two low western limbs. A reduction of the lower crown by up to 3 m to the two hornbeams — constitutes a cyclical maintenance operation. Repeat pruning of holly and hornbeam is acceptable where: It follows BS3998:2010 – Tree Work Recommendations, ensuring cuts are appropriately positioned and the tree's structural integrity is retained. The extent of reduction is modest, targeted, and does not exceed the tree's physiological capacity to respond. Works are required to maintain clearance, reduce encroachment, or manage crown spread in constrained residential environments. The proposed works meet these criteria. The holly's previous reduction points provide suitable locations for sympathetic re-pruning, and the hornbeam limb removal is limited to a single damaged branch, representing routine arboricultural maintenance. Concerns regarding disturbance to birds are noted. Any Arboricultural contractor carrying out the work is required to comply with the Wildlife and

Countryside Act 1981, which protects active nests. In line with best practice: they must undertake a pre-works nesting assessment immediately prior to commencement. If an active nest is identified, works must be postponed until the nest is no longer in use. The nature of the works a light crown reduction and removal of isolated limbs—does not constitute habitat removal and is unlikely to significantly affect nesting opportunities outside the nesting season. This approach is consistent with industry guidance and ensures compliance with statutory wildlife protections.

There a number of other points raised in the correspondence – these do not relate directly to the application.

Relevant Planning History

There have been four applications to prune various trees the subject TPO group since 2012, all of which have been approved – most of these applications involve crown reduction or crown lifting works as such I feel this is a repeat operation.

Planning Assessment

Recommendation: APPROVE

Grant Consent, subject to the following Conditions:

1. The works hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with BS3998:1989 or any equivalent standard.

Reason: To protect the special amenity value of the tree(s).

The tree work to which this consent relates shall be completed within two years of the date of this consent.

Reason: To enable the Local Planning Authority to review the need for the works in the event of this consent not being implemented.

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation? No

Case Officer:	CP	Date: 21/09/2026
Authorised by:	Jo Morin	Date: 29.09.2026