Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 09/10/15**

Application Number	**AWDM/1204/15**
Address	**The Rectory Church Lane Southwick BN42 4GD**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Adur Tree Preservation Order 13.53/4/95(SW) of 1995 to reduce radial spread by up to 2 – 3 metres and reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, one tree Sycamore tree T5.**

Date of site visit: 14/08/15

Neighbours checked: Y
Additional neighbour notifications: N
Site notice: (wider publicity / conservation area): Y

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a single Sycamore tree in the rear garden of The St Michael's Rectory. The tree is part of a number of large tall trees around the junction of Church Lane and Albert Road in the Southwick Conservation Area.

Consent is sought to reduce the crown height and to radial spread of the tree.

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

1976: The Southwick Conservation Area was first designated in June 1976.

1995: Adur Tree Preservation order 13.53/4/95(SW) of 1995 confirmed on 09/08/95.

Planning Assessment

The Sycamore tree T5 is a large mature growing in the rear garden to the property and is a prominent feature in the street scene and make a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the Southwick Conservation Area.

The tree is single stemmed to 3 metres, where it then divides into three main wide diameter upright stems. Each stem continues to a few metres of the top of the crown, where the tree has previously been reduced. The main crown is dense and wide spread, most of the spread being formed by smaller secondary braches some of which are slightly over extended. The lower sections of the crown are sufficiently high over the pavement and carriage way of Church Lane.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread by up to 2 -3 metres, 3 metres on the longest most extended limbs. Also proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres. These works are to contain the size and spread of the tree.

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 Southwick Conservation Area.

Recommendation

Grant Consent, subject to the following Conditions:

1. Proposed works, hereby permitted, shall be restricted to those specified in the application, only, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the LPA, 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: 09/10/2015

Authorised by: PD Date: 9.10.15