Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 23/01/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/1378/24**
Address	**Worthing Museum Chapel Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 1HP**
Proposal	**Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to remove two low limbs to West, crown lift up to 3 metres, crown thin 20% and remove deadwood one Tree of Heaven in the Chapel Road Conservation Area.**

Date of site visit: 16/01/25

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a large mature Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus altissima) located near the southeast corner of the Museum garden, at the rear of the main building within Portland Road. The tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the Chapel Road Conservation Area.

Consent is sought to remove two low limbs to South, crown lift, crown thin and remove deadwood

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: One from Worthing Library advising whether the slope and walkway between the buildings will be affected. Request notice is given so the library can find alternative accessible entrance and to inform their contractors.

Relevant Planning History

2000: The property is included within Conservation Area Chapel Road (XXIV) (formerly Seafront and Hinterland), designated by the Council on 14th March 2000.

2020: Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to fell 1no. Ailanthus altissima.

Planning Assessment

The Tree of Heaven is a large mature tree growing in the garden close to the junction of Portland Road, and Chapel Road, where it is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree has a single stem to 2.25 metres, where it divides into two large stems: the Southwest stem divides again at 4 metres and remains upright, the Northeast stem angles outward at 3 metres and mostly persists to the top. The first significant limbs emerge from 4 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread mostly to the West with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to remove two low limbs to the west, crown lift up to 3 metres, crown thin 20% and remove deadwood. The works are to contain the spread of the tree allow access beneath 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

Grant Consent, Not subject to Conditions:

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation?

No

Case Officer: JDS Date: 23/01/2025

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 24/01/2025