Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 07/10/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/0997/25**
Address	**1 Hawthorn Gardens Worthing West Sussex BN14 9LS**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.51 of 2003 to reduce crown height by up to 4 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2 to 3 metres, 2 metres overall, 3 metres to Eastern side, one Ash tree T3.**

Date of site visit: 26/09/25

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to one early mature Ash tree growing in the southwest part of the grounds of Hawthorne Close, near to car parking areas and adjacent to the fence of 41 Hawthorn Road. 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.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

2003: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 51 of 2003 confirmed on 02/03/2004.

2007: Application under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 51 of 2003 to crown reduce by up to one metre on south side over No. 41 Hawthorn Road and crown thin by 10 - 15% one Ash tree (T3).

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.51 of 2003 to initiate pollard point at 6 metres, and carry out associated works to one Ash tree T3

Planning Assessment

The tree is a medium to large early mature growing close to the northern fence line of 41 Hawthorn Road, in the communal grassed area of the complex of flats, Hawthorn Close. The tree is prominent to the area and can be clearly seen from many views in Hawthorn Close and Hawthorn Road.

The tree has three relatively slender stems that separate from 0.5 metres above ground level. The stems are mostly clear to 5 metres, and divide further at 6-7 metres. The top half of the crown is

bushy with multiple thin secondary stems. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals to the east.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 4 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2 to 3 metres, 2 metres overall, 3 metres to the eastern side. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow more light and air to pass 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: 07/10/2025

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 09/10/2025