Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 26/11/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/1096/25**
Address	**31 First Avenue Worthing West Sussex BN14 9NJ**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.31 of 2003 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres and crown thin 15% one Lime tree T21, Beech T22 and Sycamores trees T23 & T24 all of group G1.**

Date of site visit: n/a

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to four large mature trees located near the west boundary of the rear garden. The trees are part of group G1 which runs along the rear gardens of 27 to 31 First Avenue, adjacent to the public open space of Hill Barn Recreation Ground. The trees are part of a prominent group of trees that make 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 Lime tree T21, Beech T22 and Sycamore trees T23 & T24 all of group G1.

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 31 of 2003 confirmed on 14/01/2004.

2020: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 31 of 2003 to reduce height and radial spread by up to 2.5m, and crown thin up to 15% to 1 Holm Oak (Part of Group G1).

Planning Assessment

The trees are four large matures; one lime, one Beech and two Sycamores, growing in the rear garden adjacent to Hill Barn Recreation Ground, where they are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The trees have single stems that persist to within 1 to 2 metres of the top, and are mostly clear to 4 to 6 metres, where they each divide into several stems and laterals, with some episomic growth from 3 metres. The first laterals emerge from 2 metres, some of which are large and hang low. The main crowns are partially combined dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres and crown thin 15% all four trees. The works are to contain the size and spread of the trees and allow more light and air to pass through the crowns.

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: 26/11/2025

Authorised by: PB Date: 27/11/25