Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 13/12/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/1174/24**
Address	**St George's Gardens Church Walk Worthing West Sussex BN11 2LR**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.12 of 2003 to crown lift up to 5 metres Lime tree T1, and to thin five selected limbs to the North by up to 30%, and reduce radial spread to South by 0.5 meters (to a height of 4 metres) one Corsican Pine T2.**

Date of site visit: 20/09/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two large mature trees: one Lime T1, near the pedestrian entrance from Church Walk, and one a Corsican Pine T2, near the southwest corner of the front grounds. The trees are a prominent part of the street scene and make a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to crown lift Lime tree T1, and to thin five selected limbs to the North and reduce radial spread to South (to a height of 4 metres) one Corsican Pine T2.

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

2003: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 12 of 2003 confirmed on 10/04/2003.

2009: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.12 of 2003 to reduce branches from building to provide up to 2 metres clearance, raise crowns to 4 metres, thin crown by 15%, reshape (up to 1 metre) to two Lime trees within Group G1 on Selden Road boundary.

2009: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 12 of 2003 to crown lift one Lime (T1) by 2 metres over garden and pavement and remove deadwood and crown lift one Corsican Pine (T2) by 1 metre over pavement at St Georges Gardens; and to crown lift one Lime at 20 Selden Road by 1 metre on south side over car park of St Georges Gardens (part of Group G1)

2017: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 12 of 2003 to crown lift to 5 metres over road and to 2.5 metres over footpath one Corsican Pine T2.

2022: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 12 of 2003 to crown lift up to 4 metres, and crown clean one Lime tree T1, and to reduce radial spread on south side by up to 1.5 to 2 metres, and crown clean one Corsican Pine tree T2.

Planning Assessment

The trees are both large tall matures growing on the southern boundary of the grounds adjacent to Church Road. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The trees are:

Lime Tree T1
This tree is located on the centre of the southern boundary, adjacent to the pedestrian entrance, and public pavement of Church Road. The tree has a large diameter single stem to 3 metres, where it then becomes twin, with each stem dividing again at 6 metres. The first limbs emerge from 5.75 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some lower hanging tertiary branches.

The proposed works are to crown lift up to 5 metres to allow access beneath the crown, and for safety.

Corsican Pine T2
The Corsican Pine tree T2 is located in the southwest corner of the ground adjacent to the junction of Church Walk and Selden Road. The tree has a large diameter single stem that has a distinct lean to the south. The stem gradually corrects toward the top of the low crown. The lateral branches begin at 3 metres and have a regular radial spacing that continues to the top of the tree. The main crown is dense with a slightly wider spread to the south.

The proposed works are to thin five selected limbs to the North by up to 30%, and reduce radial spread to South by 0.5 meters up to a height of 4 metres. The works are to contain the spread of the tree crown, and allow more light and air to pass through and around the crown.

These works in my opinion would be relatively minor in relation to the overall size, spread and crown form of the trees and would not significantly or adversely affect their appearance, amenity value, or 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:13/12/2024
Authorised by:	Louise Prew	Date: 13/12/2024