Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 10/12/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/1202/24**
Address	**Beechwood Court Tennyson Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 4BA**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.10 of 1997 to reduce radial spread to South by up to 2 metres, crown lift up to 3 to 6 metres,over Road and Footpath one Sycamore tree T2.**

Date of site visit: 03/10/24

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 growing near the centre of the Northern boundary of Beechwood Court adjacent to the junctions of Tennyson Road, Richmond Road and Wykeham Road. The tree is visible from many views and is prominent to the area.

Consent is sought to reduce radial spread and crown lift over Road and Footpath Sycamore tree T2.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: One representation in objection from a nearby neighbour suggesting the works are excessive, unnecessary and damaging to the appearance and amenity of the tree.

Relevant Planning History

1997: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 10 of 1997 confirmed on 13/03/1997.

1997: Application to crown lift one Beech tree (T1) to 2.5 metres, remove dead wood snags and previously cut branches. Remove four branches on south side of one Sycamore (T2) to provide clearance to the building and one further limb to give 1.5 metre clearance and crown lift over the highway to 2.5 metres - Beechwood Court 17 Tennyson Road

2014: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.10 of 1997 to crown lift by up to 3 – 5 metres, and reduce from building to give up to 2 metres clearance on one Beech tree T1 and one Sycamore tree T2.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 10 of 1997 to reduce radial crown spread to south by 1.5m to one Beech tree T1 and one Sycamore tree T2.

Planning Assessment
The Sycamore T2 is one of three large mature trees growing along the north side of Beechwood Court, that are prominent to the area and provide a valuable screen to the block building of

Beechwood Court, which is in-between, the Conservation Areas of Park Crescent and Winchester Road.

Sycamore tree T2
This tree is single stemmed to 1.5 metres, then multi-stemmed around a main central trunk. There is a slight lean in the base, which is compensated by a well-balanced crown. The main stems of the tree have numerous gnarls / knuckles, possibly where epicormic growth has been repeatedly removed. The first significant limbs emerge from 3 metres on the Eastern side. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread to South by up to 2 metres and crown lift up to 3 to 6 metres: up to 6 metres over the carriageway of Richmond Road and up to 3 metres over the public pavement, and the access road within Beechwood Court. The works are to abate possible future nuisance, and allow access beneath 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?

Yes, one objection received suggesting the works are excessive and harmful to the tree. Having inspected the tree and assessed the works I cannot find any reason to refuse or amend the proposed works.

Case Officer: JDS Date:10/12/2024

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 10.12.2024