Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 25/10/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/1055/24**
Address	**Beechwood Salvington Hill Worthing West Sussex BN13 3BD**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.53 of 1995 to reduce radial spread to East by up to 2.5 metres, crown lift up to 8 metres, and crown thin 10% one Beech tree T6, crown lift up to 6 metres and crown thin 10% Sycamore T1 of group G2 and to fell and replace Sycamore tree T2 of group G2.**

Date of site visit: 23/10/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to 3 large mature trees: one Beech in the rear garden, and two Sycamore of group G2 on the Eastern boundary of the front garden. The trees are a prominent part of the street scene and make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce radial spread to East, crown lift, and crown thin Beech tree T6, crown lift and crown thin Sycamore T1 of group G2 and to fell and replace Sycamore tree T2 of group G2

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

1995: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 53 of 1995 confirmed on 14/02/1996.

1995: Application for lopping by raising crown and back-ending lower outer branches to give clearance of two/three metres above ground level to one Common Beech T4 of Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 2 of 1989 amended

2002: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.53/1995 to crown lift to 3 metres, reduction of up to 1.5 metres, north west side, reduction of various wayward branches by up to 1 metre and clean out one Beech (T6) and crown lift two Sycamore (G2) to 6 metres over highway.

2004: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.53 of 1995 to crown reduce two Sycamore (G2) and one Beech (T6); remove unbalanced main branch of one Sycamore within G2 towards the road.

2004: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No 53/1995 for crown reduction by 1.5m and thinning by 10% to one Fagus Sylvatica (T6); crown lift to 6 metres and clean out two Acer Pseudoplatanus (G2)

Planning Assessment

The trees are one Beech located near the centre of the Western boundary of the rear garden, close to the rear gardens of Tudor House and 8 Palmers Way, and two Sycamore of group G2, growing in the front garden, adjacent to the carriageway of Salvington Hill to the East of the boundary hedge. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The trees are:

Beech T6
This tree has a single stem to 0.5 metres, where it begins to divide with a secondary stem to the West, with 3 to 4 other stems emerging from 0.5 metres to 1.5 metres. The first branches emerge from 3 metres. The Main crown is dense and moderately wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals to the Eastern side.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread to East by up to 2.5 metres, crown lift up to 8 metres, and crown thin 10%. These works are to reshape the crown, allow access beneath and allow more light and air to pass through the crown.

Sycamore T1 of group G2
The Sycamore tree T1 of group G2 is the second tree from the Northern end of the group. The tree has a single stem to 2.25 metres where it divides into 3 to 4 main stems that each have large outgrown pollard points from 3 to 4 metres. Secondary stems from the pollard knuckles divide again several times to the top. The main crown is dense and wide spread.

The proposed works are to crown lift up to 6 metres and crown thin 10%. The works are to allow access and to allow more light and air to pass beneath and through the crown.

Sycamore T2 of group G2
This tree is at the Northern end of group G2, adjacent to the vehicular access from Salvington Hill. The tree has a single stem to 1 metre, where an equal sized stem emerges that angle out to 2 metres where it then corrects and extends parallel with the main stem. The two stems have been pollarded at 5 to 6 metres with large poles from each point that each divide several more times to the top. The secondary stem has a cluster of large epicormic growth at 3 metres, which supports the only green leaves on the tree. The main crown is sparse and wide spread with only brown dead leaves present.

The proposed works are to fell and replace Sycamore tree T2 of group G2 due to poor health of the tree.

The works to the Beech T6 and Sycamore T1 of group G2, 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.

The works to the Sycamore tree T2 of group G2 will be large in relation to the overall number of trees and a significant amount of change will take place. However the effect on the area will be compensated with the provision of a replacement tree.

Recommendation

APPROVE

Grant Consent, subject to the following Conditions:

1. Approved plans

2. The proposed works to the Beech T6 and Sycamore T1 of group G2 , 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.*

3. The proposed felling of the Sycamore T2 of group G2, identified on the applicants plan as G2 and its replacement shall be carried out in full within two years from the date of this consent and in accordance with details of the size species and position of the replacement tree planting to be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

   Reason: *In the interest of visual amenity.*

4. If within five years following replanting, the replacement tree dies or becomes seriously diseased, another tree of the same size and species shall be planted in a similar position during the next planting season following the removal of the replacement tree, unless the Local Planning Authority gives written approval to any variation.

   Reason: *In the interest of visual amenity.*

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation?

No

Case Officer: JDS Date: 25/10/2024

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 25.10.2024