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

Application Number	**AWDM/1203/24**
Address	**Street Record Elm Mews Worthing West Sussex**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.18 of 2000 to reduce radial spread to West by up to 2 metres, crown lift up to 6 metres, and deadwood English Oak T1, and to reduce radial spread to East by up to 2 metres, crown lift up to 6 metres, and deadwood English Oak T2.**

Date of site visit: 29/10/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two mature English Oak trees, under the Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 18 of 2000, on the west side Elm Mews, between the public footpath at the western end of Pond Lane, and the rear of 32 Taw Close. 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 reduce radial spread to West, crown lift, and deadwood English Oak T1, and to reduce radial spread to East, crown lift, and deadwood English Oak 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

2000: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 18 of 2000 confirmed on 20/02/2001.

2012: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 18 of 2000 for selective pruning of small branches to ensure free passage of overhead cables routed through the crown of one English Oak tree (T1) to the east of 31 Taw Close; and to prune back branches on east side of upper crown to achieve between 2 and 3 metres clearance from adjacent dwelling (1 Elm Cottages) on one English Oak tree (T2) to the east of 32 Taw Close.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.18 of 2000 to for lateral reduction of crown on east side by up to 2m one Oak tree (T2) to rear of No.32 Taw Close.

Planning Assessment

The trees are growing in a narrow grass verge between the roadway of Elm Mews and the rear garden fence line of properties in Taw Close. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views. The trees are:

English Oak T1
This tree has a single stem to 4.5 metres where it divides into three large secondary stems; two of which divide again at 6.5 metres and one stem to the Northeast persists to 10 metres before dividing. The first significant limbs emerge from 5 metres. The main crown is moderately dense and wide spread with some lower hanging laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread to West by up to 2 metres, crown lift up to 6 metres, and remove deadwood. The works are to contain the spread of the tree and allow access and more light and air to pass beneath the crown.

English Oak T2
The English Oak T2 is located slightly further South than T1 to the rear of the back garden of 32 Taw Close. The tree has a single stem to 6 metres where it then becomes twin stemmed and several large laterals emerge. The first limbs emerge from 6 metres with some large epicormic growth from 3 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread toward its eastern side, with some slightly over extended and lower hanging laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread to East by up to 2 metres, crown lift up to 6 metres, and remove deadwood. The works are to contain the spread of the tree, abate possible future nuisance to properties of Elm Cottages, 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 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: Jo Morin Date: 16.12.2024