Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 15/02/24**

Application Number	**AWDM/1681/23**
Address	**STREET RECORD Springfield Gardens Worthing West Sussex**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.17 of 2004 to reduce radial spread to West by up to 1.5 metres one Corsican Pine tree T1 of group G1.**

Date of site visit: 20/12/23

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a tall mature Corsican Pine located near the western side of the grounds of Springfield Gardens, adjacent to the boundary fence to the rear garden of number 20 Ashacre Lane. The tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce radial spread to West Corsican Pine tree T1 of group G1.

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

2004: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 17 of 2004 confirmed on 12/01/2005.

2005: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 17 of 2004 to reduce crown spread of one Holm Oak tree (part of Group G1) overhanging roof and gutter of 5 and 6 Springfield Gardens.

2009: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 17 of 2004 to reduce crown spread of one Holm Oak tree (part of Group G1) overhanging roof and gutter of 5 and 6 Springfield Gardens.

2010: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 17 of 2004 to reduce crown spread of one Holm Oak tree (part of Group G1) overhanging roof and gutter of 5 and 6 Springfield Gardens.

2011: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 17 of 2004 to crown thin by 20% one Holm Oak tree (Part of Group G4) at northern end of grassed verge, east side of Springfield Gardens, adjacent to No. 6 Ashacre Lane.

2012: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 17 of 2004 to remove all major dead wood (more than 50 mm diameter) throughout the crown, to thin the crown by approximately 10% removing selective tertiary branches and minor dead wood (less than 50 mm diameter) and reduce large low primary lateral branch over car parking area by approximately 3m in length back to the upright dog leg union on one Monterey Pine (Pinus radiata) (T2)

2012: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 17 of 2004 to reduce lateral branches by 30%, remove dead and diseased wood, and crown lift to 4 metres and, once effected, prune lightly any protruding branches to balance overall shape to one Monterey Pine (T2)

2016: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.17 of 2004 to crown lift up to 6 metres, two Holm Oak trees T1 and T4, crown lift up to 6 to 8 metres, reduce overhang to property and remove selected secondary limb on Northwest aspect one Monterey Pine T2, crown lift up to 6 metres and reduce overhang to property one Holm Oak tree T3, remove epicormic growth and crown lift up to 6 metres one Holm Oak T5 all of group G3 and to fell and replace one Cherry tree of group G4.

2017: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.17 of 2004 to reduce to allow clearance of up to 2 metres to building Holm Oak trees of group G1.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 17 of 2004 to reduce main lateral by 4m on the west side of one Corsican Pine tree of group G1.

2022: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.17 of 2004 to prune to allow clearance of up to 2 metres to the main building of 6 Ashacre Lane, and remove selected lower limb to the southeast one Norway Maple tree T1 of group G4.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a tall mature Pine growing in the grounds adjacent to 5 and 6 Springfield Gardens, on the boundary with the rear garden of number 20 Ashacre Lane. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree has a straight slender single stem that persists to within 2 metres of the top. The main stem has a slight curve to the west at 8 metres, and is mostly clear to 12 metres, where it reduces in girth, and has several smaller laterals all around forming a compact flat topped crown. The main crown is moderately dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread to West by up to 1.5 metres. The works are to maintain the overhang to the West and allow more light and air to pass around 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?

No

Case Officer: JDS Date: 15/02/2024

Authorised by: Gary Peck Date: 15 February 2024