Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 11/03/24**

Application Number	**AWDM/1725/23**
Address	**Land Site College Gardens Worthing West Sussex**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.8 of 1982 to reduce radial spread to clear building by up to 1.5 metres, Beech tree T10, and to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1.5 metres one Flowering Cherry T46.**

Date of site visit: 11/01/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a large mature Beech tree on the Northern boundary of the site and a smaller mature Cherry located in the lawn area between blocks 2 to 44 and 46 to 56. 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 clear building Beech tree T10, and to reduce crown height and radial spread Flowering Cherry T46.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1982: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 8 of 1982 confirmed on 07/01/1983.

1996: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No 8/1982 to fell one Flowering Cherry (T47) and replant with Cheals Weeping Cherry.

1997: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8/1982 for crown thinning by 20% three Flowering Crab (T42, T43,T44) and remove crossed abrading branches of two Flowering Cherry (T45 and T46).

2013: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8 of 1982 to crown lift to 3 metres three Lime trees (T2 T3 & T5) one Horse Chestnut Tree (T8) and one Copper Beech (T10) Crown lift to 2.5 metres one Leyland Cypress (T26) and one Sycamore tree (T16) Reduce radial spread to clear building by up to 2 metres one Cherry (T37) and prune to clear street light one Sycamore (T21)

2015: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.8 of 1982 to reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres one Flowering Cherry tree T38.

2016: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.8 of 1982 to reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres on east side of two Lime trees T3 and T5, and to reduce to clear Street Light one Oak tree T7.

2017: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8 of 1982 to reduce height of east stem with cavity at union to 5m and reduce weight and loading on main union at 4m to one Sycamore T6.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8 of 1982 to reduce height by up to 2m, reduce radial crown spread by up to 3m to all aspects one Cherry tree T46; to reduce height by up to 2m and radial crown spread by up to 2m to all aspects one Cherry tree T38.

2019: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8 of 1982 to crown lift to 5m 3no. Lime trees T2, T3 and T5; crown lift to 5m over road and crown lift to 3m over footpath one Oak T7; crown lift to 3m one Horse Chestnut tree T8 and to crown lift to 2.5m one Crab Apple tree T41.

2020: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8 of 1982 to reduce radial spread to east and west away from property by 1 metre, and crown thin up to 10% one Cherry tree T38.

2021: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8 of 1982 to crown lift up to 6 metres to east Sycamore T19, Crown lift up to 3 to 6 metres and to prune to clear street light by up to 1.5 metres Sycamore T21, prune to clear street light by up to 1.5 metres one Oak tree T7 and to crown lift by 0.5 to 1.8 metres Crab Apple trees T42, T43 and T44

Planning Assessment

The trees are a large mature Copper Beech growing in the rear parking area, to the North of block 38 to 44, and a smaller mature Flowering Cherry growing toward the centre of the site, between the three main blocks. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views. The trees are:

<u>Copper Beech T10</u>
This tree has a large diameter single stem to 2.25 metres, where it then begins to divide, with secondary stems to the East and West from 2 and 3 metres and a cluster of partially fused, smaller stems from 4 to 5 metres, where the first significant laterals emerge. The main crown is dense and wide spread mostly on smaller secondary laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread to clear adjacent building by up to 1.5 metres, The works are to contain the spread of the tree, and allow more light and air to pass the crown.

<u>Flowering Cherry T46</u>
The Flowering Cherry tree T46, has a single stem to 1 metre where it then divides into 4 to 5 main scaffold stems that each divide again from 2.75 metres. The first laterals emerge from 2 metres, with the lower stem having some damage, blown bark and small areas of decay. The main crown is dense and wide spread mostly with smaller secondary stems and branches laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1.5 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree crown, reduce weight on the central stems 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 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: 11/03/2024

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 12.03.2024