Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 24/01/24**

Application Number	**AWDM/1122/23**
Address	**Queensborough Court 90 Grand Avenue Worthing West Sussex**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.7 of 1997 to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres,and reduce radial spread by up to 1.5 metres, one Holm Oak tree of group G1.**

Date of site visit: 23/01/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a medium to large sized mature Holm Oak located in the centre of the front grounds between the two apartment blocks, and close to Grand Avenue. The tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1997: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 7 of 1997 confirmed on 25/02/1997.

2001: Application to reduce and reshape 1 Bay tree (T2), crown lift north side and clean out crown of 1 Acer (T4) and crown thin and remove lower branches of 1 Acer (T5).

2003: Application to remove lower limb and crown lift to 4 metres a Holm Oak (G2), prune to 2 metres and remove lowest branch of a Pine (G2), prune and reshape Holm Oaks (G1), prune a Bay (T2) and clean out dead wood on all Pines (G2).

2006: Application to fell one Holm Oak in Group G1 and to crown lift to 5 metres and thin individual Holm Oak (T1). Split Decision - Approved with Conditions Split Decision - REFUSED - Application to pollard one Holm Oak (in Group 1), and reduce throughout by 30% one Sycamore (T4) and one Norway Maple (T5). Application No. 06/0045/TPO.

2009: Application for to fell one Sycamore tree (T4) and one Norway Maple (T5) Refused – Application No. 09/0124/TPO.

2010: Application to reduce height by up to 2 metres, reduce crown spread on south side by 1 metre and on north side by up to 2 metres to growth points on one Sycamore (T4) and to reduce

height by 2 metres, crown lift to 6 metres on south side by removal of epicormic growth and reduce crown spread on north side by up to 2 metres on one Norway Maple (T5).

2010: Application to crown reduce height and volume by 20% and to crown lift to 8 metres 2 no. Holm Oak trees in front garden (part of Groups G1 and G2) and crown reduce height and volume by 20% to 2 no. Maple trees in rear garden (T4 and T5).

2011: Application to crown lift to 5 metres and reduce by 20% (away from pine tree) to one Holm Oak in front garden adjacent to Grand Avenue (Part of Group G1); and to crown lift to 5 metres and reduce by 20% (away from pine trees) one Holm Oak in front garden adjacent to Rugby Road (Part of Group G2).

2013: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.7 of 1997 to crown reduce in height and radial spread by up to 1 metre one Bay tree (T2) crown lift up to 5 metres one Holm Oak of group G2, Remove selected lateral limb back to trunk on Southside of one Pine tree of group G2, to cut back limb overhanging property to give up to 2 metres clearance on one Pine tree of group G2, and to cut back branches overhanging property to give up to 2 metres clearance on one Pine tree of group G1.

2016: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.7 of 1997 to crown reduce in height and radial spread by up to 1 to 2 metres one Bay tree (T2) crown lift up to 8 metres one Holm Oak of group G2, and to crown lift up to 6 metres and remove selected lateral limb back to trunk on eastside of one Holm Oak tree of group G1.

2017: Application under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 7 of 1997 to remove epicorms on western bough, reduction of large south side bough (and branch clump by 50%) to Holm Oak T1; Crown lift to 8m and remove overhanging branches of Holm Oak G1; reduce tree by approximately 25% (2m in length), lift to 8m of Norway, Maple/Sycamore T4/T5.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 7 of 1997 to crown reduce in height/volume by 4-5m one Holm Oak in group G1. To reduce height/sides by approximately 1m to one Bay tree T2.

2019: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 7 of 1997 to reduce height and radial spread by up to 5m and crown lift to 8m one Holm Oak of Group G2 and to remove lower lateral south facing branch back to the main trunk on one Pine of group G2.

2021: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 7 of 1997 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 4 metres, reduce selected bough by up to 4 metres and crown lift up to 8 metres Holm Oak tree T1; to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1.5 metres one Bay tree T2 and to reduce crown height and radial spread to previous points (1.5 to 2 metres) Maple trees T4 and T5.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Holm Oak growing in the front grounds that contributes to the area, and provides year round interest to views from Grand Avenue and Rugby Road. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The Holm oak tree of G1 is a medium to large mature tree with twin stems from ground level. The western stem is upright to the crown break and has side stems from 3 metres. The eastern stem is leaning from ground level, and corrects at 2.25 metres into a more upright form. The tree has some

foliage mixed with Ivy from ground level with the crown mostly forming from 4 to 4.5 metres. The main crown is dense and moderately wide spread.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres,and reduce radial spread by up to 1.5 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow more light into the property.

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: 24/01/2024

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 24.01.2024