**Development Management – Delegated Officer Report** **Date; 20/12/2024**

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| **Application Number** | **AWDM/1268/24** |
| **Address** | **68 Gratwicke Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 4BJ** |
| **Proposal** | **Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.55 of 1995 to remove outer West facing large limb and reduce radial spread by up to 2 to 3 metres one Sycamore tree T1, and to prune to allow clearance of up to 1.6 metres to Illuminated information Sign adjacent to Bay trees of group G1.** |

**Date of site visit:** 18/12/24

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

**Proposal, Site and Surroundings**

The application refers to one Sycamore tree and a group of two Bay in the front and side garden of The Presbytery, 68 Gratwick Road. The trees are part of an established group of trees, which are part of the street scene and make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to remove one selected low limb to West, and reduce radial spread one Sycamore tree T1, and to prune to allow clearance to Illuminated information Sign adjacent to Bay trees 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**

1995: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 55 of 1995 confirmed on 14/02/1996.

2016: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 55 of 1995 to reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres on inside of garden to Bay T2 and Bays of group G1 and to crown lift up to 5 metres, prune to clear building by up to 2 metres and crown thin up to 15% one Sycamore tree T1.

**Planning Assessment**

The trees are medium to large sized early matures growing in the front and side gardens adjacent to Richmond Road and Gratwicke Road. The trees are part of an established group of trees, which are prominent in the street scene and make a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

The trees are;

Sycamore T1
This tree is located the furthest South of the 3 trees bordering Gratwick Road. The tree has three main stems that emerge from ground level. The stems are intertwined and become separated at 1 metre, with some included bark. Each of the three main stems divides into two at 2 metres, the outer stems become upright at 3 metres. The main crown is slightly suppressed on the north side, with most of the foliage to the south. The main crown is moderately open with mostly upright scaffold limbs, with wide spread and low hanging secondary branches.

The proposed works are to remove the outer West facing large limb and reduce radial spread by up to 2 to 3 metres. The works are to allow clearance to the public pavement and to contain the spread of the tree.

Bay trees of group G1
Group G1 consists of two large clusters of stems, to the east and south of the junction of Gratwick Road and Richmond Road. The Bays each have 6 - 7 main stems and numerous shoots and basal growths. The stems are sparsely foliated and upright to 3 to 4 metres. At 3 to 4 metres the main crown becomes wide, and dense with many extended limbs on the south and east sides.

The proposed works for the two Bays are to prune to allow clearance of up to 1.6 metres to Illuminated Sign within the garden. The works are to allow more space in the garden areas and to maintain the visibility of the Church's sign and notice board.

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:20/12/2024

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 20/12/2024