Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 20/02/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/1628/24**
Address	**64 Longlands Worthing West Sussex BN14 9NN**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.46 of 2003 to reduce crown height up to 2 metres and reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres Sycamores of group G9, and to crown thin 10% and prune to allow clearance to building of up to 2 metres Sycamores tree T16.**

Date of site visit: 13/02/25

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to G9 which is a group of seven tall Sycamore located along the Southern boundary of the front garden, and a large mature Sycamore T16, which is located on the west side of the property adjacent to First Avenue. 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 crown height and reduce spread Sycamores trees of group G9, and to crown thin and prune to allow clearance to building Sycamores tree T16.

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

2003: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 46 of 2003 confirmed on 29/01/2004.

2006: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 46/2003 to crown lift and clean out one Ash tree; crown reduce by 20%-25%, crown thin by 15%-20% and clean out two Sycamore (within Group G9).

2009: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 46/2003 to crown lift to 5 metres one Sycamore nearest to the house, removal of limb heading towards house and adjacent limb with squirrel damage, crown thin by 20% and reduce any remaining branches growing towards house by 1 metre. Crown lift one Ash tree to 4 metres and crown clean. Crown lift to 4 metres and crown clean multi-stemmed Sycamore nearest to the road. Crown lift to 3 metres, crown clean, minor crown reduction of 1 metre towards property, one Sycamore on eastern boundary of property. Crown lift to 3 metres two Raywards Ash on either side of driveway entrance and remove damaged limb of Ash on left hand side. (Part of Group G9).

2023: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.46 of 2003 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2.5 metres one Sycamore tree T16.

Planning Assessment

The trees are a large mature Sycamore T16 growing in the side garden close to the main building, and a row of seven Sycamore in the front garden adjacent to the southern boundary. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The trees are:

Sycamore tree T6
This tree has a cluster of stems emerging from a common source above ground level. There are two main larger stems one to the East the other to the West, and three smaller slender stems, all the stems are upright and mostly persist to within 2 to 3 metres of the top, where the crown was previously reduced. The first laterals emerge from 6 metres. The main crown is dense and moderately wide spread with only minimal re-growth since the last works.

The proposed works are to crown thin 10% and prune to allow clearance to building of up to 2 metres. The works are to allow more light and air to pass through the crown and to maintain clearance to the main building.

Sycamore trees of group G9
The seven Sycamore trees of group G9 are in three distinct clusters to the Southeast central and at the Southwest close to the junction of Longlands and First Avenue. All of the trees are multi-stemmed with tall slender stems that persist to within 2 to 3 metres of the tops. The first limbs emerge from 4 metres. The main crowns are mostly intertwined, particularly between the Southeast and central trees, and are generally dense and widespread.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height up to 2 metres and reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres Sycamore trees of group G9. The works are to contain the size and spread of the trees and allow more light and air to pass their crowns.

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: 20/02/2025
Authorised by:	Louise Prew	Date: 27/02/2025