**Development Management – Delegated Officer Report** **Date; 16/06/23**

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| **Application Number** | **AWDM/0512/23** |
| **Address** | **Lanes End 147 Offington Drive Worthing West Sussex BN14 9PU** |
| **Proposal** | **Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.20 of 1997 to re-pollard below existing points and remove two selected limbs on one Lime tree T1 and one Acer tree T2.** |

**Date of site visit:** 31/06/23

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

**Proposal, Site and Surroundings**

The application refers to two medium sized trees located along the southern boundary of the stepped rear garden. The trees are a part of the area, and provide a backdrop to the development of 147 Offington Drive.

Consent is sought to initiate new pollards below the existing points and remove selected lower limbs of both trees.

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

**Consultations:** None.

**Representations:** None received.

**Relevant Planning History**

1990: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 46 of 1990 confirmed on 31/01/5/1991.

2005: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No 20/1997 to carry out marginal crown lifting and to clean out one Lime and one Sycamore Tree (T1 and 2)

2010: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 20/1997 to remove the epicormic growth and remove two secondary ascending branches from the central stems, and crown reduce by 1 metre on Lime tree (T2).

2014: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.46 of 1990 to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, and crown lift up to 3 metres one Horse Chestnut tree T7

2014: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 20 of 1997 to reduce crown height by up to 3 metres on one Sycamore tree T1 and one Lime tree T2.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 20 of 1997 to reduce height and radial growth by 2-3 metres of one Sycamore tree (T1) and one Lime tree (T2).

**Planning Assessment**

The Lime T2 and Acer T1 are two early mature trees in the rear garden of the property that are visible from the shared driveway and to the wider area, mostly from a large number of properties. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views. The trees are;

Sycamore T1
This is a single stemmed tree to 2 metres where it has been initially pruned. The large diameter main stems have then been pruned again at around 4 metres, where multiple slender stems then extend to the original pollard points at 10 metres. The main crown is very dense, wide spread and slightly top heavy.

The proposed works are to create a new pollard 1 metre below old pollard points, and to remove two lower limbs at approx 4 metres. The works are to continue with the management regime, and create stronger new points for the pollarding.

Lime T2
This is a single stemmed tree to 1.5 metres, where it divides into three main stems, each of which have been formatively pruned at 4 metres. The first level consists of numerous slender stems that have also been pollarded at 8 to 10 metres, the.re-growth has produced clusters of long bushy growth. The main crown is compact upright and slightly top heavy.

The proposed works are to create a new pollard 1 metre below old pollard points, and to remove two lower limbs at approx 5 metres. The works are to continue with the management regime, and create stronger new points for the pollarding.

These works in my opinion would be relatively large in relation to the overall size, spread and crown form of the trees. However in the long term they 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: 16/06/2023

Authorised by: PB Date: 20/6/23