Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 22/08/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0796/24**
Address	**10 Valley Gardens Worthing West Sussex BN14 0JJ**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.27 of 2001 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres, crown lift up to 4 metres and crown thin 20% one Beech tree T8 and to reduce radial spread to West by up to 3 metres, and crown lift up to 4 metres Beech trees of group G6.**

Date of site visit: 08/08/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to four large mature Beech trees: one in the centre of the rear garden T8 and part of the linear group G6, which is in the rear garden of number 27 The Heights, to the East. The trees are among many large tall trees that are a prominent part of the street scene and make a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread, crown lift and crown thin the Beech tree T8 and to reduce radial spread to West and crown lift Beech trees of group G6

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: One representation received from nearby neighbours, wishing to ask questions about the applications more than comment but stating in Support.

Relevant Planning History

2001: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 27 of 2001 confirmed on 12/06/2001.

2004: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.27 of 2001 to crown lift up to approximately 5 metres from ground level, trim back branches to suitable healthy node points approximately 3 metres (each side) .Trim back (top crown) tree approximately 2 metres to give balanced appearance to tree, one Beech (T8) rear of Plot 12.

2010: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.27 of 2001 to crown reduce by 1.5 metres on west side in order to prune back from building, one Beech (T8) in rear garden.

2017: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 27 of 2001 to reduce crown of Beech tree at front by 2 metres and remove one lower limb on western side to balance canopy.

2020: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 27 of 2001 to reduce radial spread and height by approx 3m, crown thin by 15% and crown lift to approx 5m one Beech tree (T8).

Planning Assessment

The trees are large mature Beech that dominate the rear garden, T8 is separate from the line of similar sized trees to the East of group G6. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The trees are:

Beech T8
The Beech tree T8 has a stout single stem to 4 metres where it then divides into 3 main large diameter stems that each persist to the top of the high crown. There are some smaller upright stems from 8 metres. The main crown is dense with some wider spread slightly over extended laterals, to the north and east.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres, crown lift up to 4 metres and crown thin 20%. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree allow access beneath and allow more light and air to pass through the crown

Beech trees of group G6
These trees are part of a linear group that run along the rear gardens of 27 and 28 The Heights. There are three trees of the group that are adjacent to the SouthEast of the rear garden of 10 Valley Gardens. The trees are two with single stems to 5 to 6 metres and one smaller younger tree that has a single stem that persists to the top. The combined main crown is dense and wide spread, widest on the first two trees and the third tree (near the Southeast corner) has the lowest hanging limbs.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread by up to 3 metres, and crown lift up to 4 metres to Western side of the 3 Beech trees of group G6. The works are to contain the spread of the trees and allow access beneath 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: 22/08/2024

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 23/08/2024