Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 18/09/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0893/24**
Address	**Woodsdale Court Dominion Road Worthing West Sussex BN14 8JQ**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.26 of 2003 to reduce crown height by up to 6 metres, remove deadwood, including section of stem on Western tree, three Lombardy Poplar of group G2.**

Date of site visit: 04/09/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to three large, tall mature Lombardy Poplar trees located near the centre of the Western boundary of the rear parking area. The trees 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 three Lombardy Poplar of group G2, and remove deadwood, including a large section of stem on Western side of tree T3.

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 26 of 2003 confirmed on 03/12/03.

2003: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 26/2003 to crown lift to 4.5 metres, one Holm Oak (T1); removal of 3 lowest limbs overhanging property to the east, together with a minor reduction by up to 1 metre of the remaining overhanging limbs.

2007: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 26 of 2003 to reduce crown spread by 1.5 metres and crown lift to 5 metres, one Holm Oak (T1)

2008: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 26 of 2003 to crown lift to 4 metres, crown thin by 15%, reduce branches toward roof of no. 204 Dominion Road and extreme branches by up to 1 metre one Tree of Heaven and to crown lift to 3 metres over driveway and 2 metres on remainder, crown thin by 10% and reduce lower branches by up to ½ a metre one Walnut (within Group G1).

2013: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 26 of 2003 to crown lift up to 5 metres and reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres 1 Holm Oak T1.

2016: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.26 of 2003 to reduce radial spread to allow clearance to building of up to 2.5 metres, on two Corsican Pine trees T2 and T3.

2019: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 26 of 2003 to crown lift to 6m by removing low branches to 1no. Holm Oak tree T1.

2020: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 26 of 2003 to reduce 3no. Lombardy Poplar trees in height by 4-5 metres G1; Crown thin by 20 per cent, remove dead wood to 2no. Corsican Pine trees T3 and T4.

2023: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.26 of 2003 to reduce to previous points (reduce crown height by up to 5 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 3 metres) one Holm Oak tree T1.

Planning Assessment

The trees are a linear group of three large mature Lombardy Poplars growing in the rear parking area adjacent to the boundary with the rear garden of 202 Dominion Road. The trees are prominent to the area and can be seen from many views.

The trees are:

Lombardy Poplar T1 of group G1
This tree has a large Ivy covered single stem to 2 metres, where it then begins to divide, with several more divisions to the top. The stems are mostly upright and tightly forked. The main crown is dense with some wider spread separate spires.

Lombardy Poplar T2 of group G1
The Lombardy Poplar T2 of group G1 is a slightly smaller tree which has a large single stem to 4 metres, then several stems that mostly persist to the top. The main crown is dense and wide spread with a heavy Ivy incursion.

Lombardy Poplar T3 of group G1
This tree has the largest single stem, which persists to 2.25 metres, where it begins to divide into several tightly forked upright stems including a dead defoliated stem to the Western side. The main crown is dense and wide spread with thick Ivy at its base.

The proposed works for all three trees are to reduce crown height by up to 6 metres, and remove deadwood, including a section of stem on Lombardy Poplar T3 of group G2. The works are to contain the size of the trees, reduce their sail effect and for general maintenance.

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: 18/09/2024

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 18/09/2024