Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 17/10/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/1081/24**
Address	**Cardinal Court Grand Avenue Worthing West Sussex BN11 5NL**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.1 of 2005 to crown lift up to 4 metres and remove deadwood two Sycamore trees T8 & T9, crown lift up to 3 metres and remove deadwood two Purple Beech trees T10 & T11 and to remove deadwood one Whitebeam T12.**

Date of site visit: 12/09/24

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 trees: two Sycamore T8 and T9, and two Beech T10 and T11 located on the Eastern boundary of the open plan front grounds, and one smaller mature Whitebeam on the Southern boundary close to the Southeast corner of the main building. 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 crown lift and remove deadwood two Sycamore trees T8 & T9 and two Purple Beech trees T10 & T11 and to remove deadwood one Whitebeam T12

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

2005: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 1 of 2005 confirmed on 03/02/2005.

2012: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 1 of 2005 to raise canopy to 3.5 metres and thin crown by 10% one Field Maple (T5) in front garden; and to raise crown to 4 metres, and thin crown by 10% and trim longest branches by up to 1 metre on one Field Maple (T6) in rear garden; and to raise crown to 4.5 metres by the removal of secondary and tertiary branches on one Lombardy poplar (T7) in rear garden.

2013: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 1 of 2005 to crown reduce in spread and height by up to 0.5 to 1 metre, and crown lift up to 2.5 metres two Purple Beech trees (T10 &T11) one Whitebeam (T12) and one Sycamore tree (T13), to crown reduce in spread and height by up to 1-2 metres one Horse Chestnut tree (T14) and to remove dead dying and damaged wood from two Sycamore trees (T8 & 9).

2019: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 1 of 2005 for reduction in radial spread of up to 2 metres and crown lift to clear adjacent Fir hedge by up to 1 metre one Horse Chestnut tree T14.

Planning Assessment

The trees are four large matures (2 Sycamore and 2 Beech) and one slightly smaller Whitebeam growing in the front and side grounds adjacent to the pavements of Grand Avenue and Pevensey Road. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views. the trees are:

Sycamore T8
This is the furthest North of the five trees growing in the front grounds along Grand Avenue. The tree has a single stem to 3 metres where it then divides into two parallel stems that each persist to 5 metres before dividing again into slender stems that mostly extend to the top of the crown. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some lower hanging laterals.

Sycamore T9
The second Sycamore tree T9 is located 3 to 4 metres Southwest of T9. The tree has a single stem to 1.5 metres where it divides into an array of stems that each divide several more times to the top. The main crown is dense and wide spread with low hanging tertiary branches.

The proposed works for the Sycamore trees T8 and T9 are to crown lift up to 4 metres and remove deadwood. The works are to allow access and allow more light and air to pass beneath the crowns, and for general amenity and safety.

Purple Beech T10
The two Purple Beech trees are located on the Eastern boundary of the frontage adjacent to the pavement of Grand Avenue, close to the junction of Grand Avenue and Pevensey Road. T10 has a large diameter single stem to 3 metres, with several secondary stems that emerge from 2 metres to the Southwest. The main stem angles to the Northeast from 2 metres and divides from 3 metres. The tree has foliage from 2 metres. The main crown is mostly dense, with less leaf cover to the West.

Purple Beech T11
This tree is located further South closer to the junction between Grand Avenue and Pevensey Road. The tree has a large diameter single stem to 2.75 metres, where it begins to divide into several large upright stems and clusters of smaller limbs and stems. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some low laterals.

The proposed works to the Purple Beech trees T10 and T11 are to crown lift crown lift up to 3 metres and remove deadwood. The works are to allow access and more light and air to pass beneath their crowns.

Whitebeam T12
The Whitebeam tree T12 is located to the South of the main block, close to the pavement of Pevensey Road. The tree has been pruned restrictively to create an ornamental small compact crown.

The proposed works are to remove deadwood including some stems to the centre, mainly for safety and amenity value.

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: 17/10/2024

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 17.10.2024