Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 17/11/23**

Application Number	**AWDM/1351/23**
Address	**56 Bulkington Avenue Worthing West Sussex BN14 7HY**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.23 of 2005 to reduce crown height by up to 8 metres and associated works one Black Poplar tree T1.**

Date of site visit: 26/09/23

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a very large mature Black Poplar tree located near the north west of the rear garden. The tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and associated works.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: Four representations received from nearby neighbours all in support of the proposed works.

Relevant Planning History

2005: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 23 of 2005 confirmed on 17/11/2005.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.23 of 2005 to crown reduce one Black Poplar (T1) by 8m.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Black Poplar growing in the rear garden adjacent to the western boundary with 58 Bulkington Avenue. The tree is highly prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree has a large diameter single stem to 12 metres, where the tree appears to have been initially pollarded. At 12 metres the main stem divides into multiple slender to medium sized poles that each extends to the top of the crown. The main stems are mostly upright supporting large secondary laterals that are more extended. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 8 metres and associated works. The previous consent was given to reduce the tree by up to 4 metres, which was not carried out. Given

the amount of growth in the following seasons the current amount of reduction is acceptable. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree crown and allow more light and air to pass the crown.

These works in my opinion would be large in relation to the overall size, spread and crown form of the tree and a significant change will be made. However the tree will remain of an imposing height and size, which will continue to have amenity value, and make a significant 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: 17/11/2023

Authorised by: PB Date: 17/11/2023