Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 02/11/23**

Application Number	**AWDM/1290/23**
Address	**Amberly House 144A Offington Drive Worthing West Sussex BN14 9PU**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.18 of 2006 to initiate a pollard by reducing crown height by up to 4 to 6 metres one Yew tree T8.**

Date of site visit: 21/09/23

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a single Yew tree in the rear garden of 144a Offington Drive. The tree is only partially visible from Offington Road, but does make an impact on the character of the area, and can be seen from the access roads for 144a and 144b, as well as the rear gardens of the surrounding homes.

Consent is sought to initiate a pollard by reducing crown height of the main stems.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

2006: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 18 of 2006 confirmed on 17/01/2007.

2014: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.18 of 2006 to reduce radial spread by up to 1.5 – 2 metres, and remove one low hanging limb on one Yew tree T8.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Yew growing in the North West corner of the rear garden. The tree is an established feature of the area and makes a contribution to its character.

The tree is single stemmed to 1 to 1.5 metres, where it then divides into multiple stems, with 3 larger diameter main stems. These stems have some sparse foliage in their upper sections with the stem growing toward the Northeast side having lost the most foliage. The main crown is dense in the lower sections, becoming sparse higher in the crown.

The proposed works are to initiate pollards from 4 to 6 metres, cutting back to sound wood and sections of healthiest growth. The works are to retain the tree which appears to be slightly compromised.

These works in my opinion would be relatively large in relation to the overall size, spread and crown form of the tree, which in time should improve its appearance, amenity value, and its 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: 02/11/2023

Authorised by: PB Date: 2/11/23