Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 03/01/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/1312/24**
Address	**12 Longlands Spinney Worthing West Sussex BN14 9NU**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.37 of 2003 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres Holm Oak trees T1 and T2 of group G11 and to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1.5 metres two Rowan trees T3 and T4 of group G11.**

Date of site visit: 02/01/25

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two medium sized mature Holm Oaks located either side of the access path within the front open plan garden, and two Rowan trees to the North close to the concrete crossover. The trees are a prominent part of the street scene and make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread Holm Oak trees T1 and T2 and to reduce two Rowan trees T3 and T4 of group G11.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

2003: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 37 of 2003 confirmed on 22/01/2004.

2018: Application under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No 37 of 2003 for height reduction up to 2m, radial reduction up to 2m, crown lift up to 4m Holm Oak T1; Height reduction up to 3.5m, radial reduction up to 2m, crown lift up to 4m Holm Oak T2.

2019: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.37 of 2003 to reduce height by up to 1.5m of two Irish Yews in group G12.

2023: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.37 of 2003 to fell and replace one Holm Oak tree T1 of group G11.

Planning Assessment
The trees are two small to medium sized Rowan and two larger more mature Holm Oaks growing in the front garden. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The trees are:

Holm Oak tree T1 of group G11
This tree is to the north of the access path, and has a large diameter single stem with a less distinct lean. The stem persists to 5 metres, where it begins to lean further north, and reduces in diameter. The first significant laterals emerge from 2.5 metres, with a very large heavy secondary at 3 metres. This tree has also been reduced, but this has been done less severely. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some over extended laterals.

Holm Oak tree T2 of group G11
This tree is located to the south of the access path, and is closest to the main building. The tree has a leaning single stem to 2.5 metres, where several large laterals emerge and the central stem persists, in reduced form to 5 metres. At 5 metres the main and secondary stems have historically been unsympathetically reduced, with multiple slender stems emerging at this point. The main crown is dense and wide spread to the south, and intertwined with T1 to the north.

The proposed works for Holm Oak trees T1 and T2 of group G11 are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the combined crown.

Rowan tree T3 of group G11
The tree Rowan tree T3 of group G11 is located further north of the two, close to the driveway from Longlands Spinney. The tree has a single stem to 1.8 metres, where it divides into several slender stems and ascending laterals. The first secondary branches emerge from 2 metres. The main crown is moderately dense and wide spread.

Rowan tree T4 of group G11
This tree has a single stem to 1.8 metres, where it then divides with 3 to 4 main secondary stems that each persist to 3.5 metres, where the tree was previously reduced. The main crown is moderately dense and wide spread.

The proposed works to the two Rowan trees T3 and T4 of group G11 are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1.5 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the trees.

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: 03/01/2025

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 03/01/2025