Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 12/12/23**

Application Number	**AWDM/1430/23**
Address	**Street Record Southwick Street Southwick West Sussex**
Proposal	**Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres Beech T3 and Sycamore T4, to reduce to a height of 2 to 2.5 metres Pittosporum trees T6 and T7, and to fell one Purple Leaved Plum tree T5 in the Southwick Conservation Area.**

Date of site visit: 20/10/23

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two large mature trees, one Beech and one Sycamore, a medium sized Purple-Leaved Plum and two small Pittosporums. The trees are located along the Eastern and Southern boundaries of the front and side gardens and form a prominent part of the street scene and make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the Southwick Conservation Area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread Beech T3 and Sycamore T4, to reduce to a height of 2 to 2.5 metres Pittosporum trees T6 and T7, and to fell one Purple Leaved Plum tree T5

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

Consultations: Letter sent to ACAAG - Adur Conservation Area Advice Group, who did not respond.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1976: Adur Tree Preservation order Number 162/3/76 (SW) of 1976 confirmed on 23/02/1977.

1976: The Southwick Conservation Area was first designated in June 1976 and included three distinct and separate areas ‘The Green and Church Lane’ area covered all buildings surrounding The Green and including the buildings on the corners of Cross Road, Roman Crescent, Southdown Road, Southwick Square, The Twitten, Watling Road, Victoria Road/Park Lane, Albert Road and Oldfield Crescent.

2016: Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to crown lift up to 3 to 6 metres, remove epicormic growth and reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres, one Lime tree in the Southwick Conservation Area.

2023: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.162/3/76 (SW) of 1976 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1 metre and crown thin up to 10 to 15% one

Pine tree T1 and to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1 metre and remove deadwood Pine tree T2.

Planning Assessment

The trees are two large matures, one medium sized Plum tree and two smaller younger Pittosporum growing in the front and side gardens. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views. The trees are:

Beech T3
This tree is located near the Northeast corner of the front garden close to the junction of Southwick Street and Roman Crescent. The tree has a single stem to 1.2 metres where it then divides into two tightly forked, partially fused stems that become fully separated from 4 metres and that persist to 4.5 to 5.5 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

Sycamore T4
The Sycamore tree T4 is on the Eastern boundary on the outside of the garden fencing, in a narrow border adjacent to the public pavement of Southwick Street. The tree has large diameter single stem to 2 metres, where it then divides into two. The West stem divides again at 3 metres, with the East stem extending to 8 metres where it also begins to divide, the first limbs on both stems, emerge from 6 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread.

The proposed works to the Beech T3 and Sycamore T4 are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the trees and allow more light and air to pass around their crowns.

Purple-leaved Plum T5
This tree is located in the front garden close to the entrance from Southwick Street. The tree has two tightly forked, partially fused stems from ground level that dived from 1.25 metres on the Southwest, and 1.75m on the Northwest. The secondary stems support a mass of contorted and twisted stems and laterals that also support dense clusters of “water Shoots”. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to fell without replacing, to allow more space for other plants etc. although the rather vague reason for removing the tree would not normally be considered acceptable, in this case the tree itself is not worthy of a Tree Preservation Order, therefore consent is recommended.

Pittosporum T6
This is one of two Pittosporum trees located on the Southern border of the property, T6 being close to the Southeast corner. The tree has multiple slender upright stems from ground level, with most of the foliage emerging from 2 metres. The main crown is dense at the perimeter and top, the centre and lower sections being more sparse.

Pittosporum T7
The Pittosporum tree T7 is a slightly larger and taller tree than T6, located further west along the Southern boundary. The tree has three separate stems from ground level that each divide from 1 metre, into slender upright stems that are clear to 2.5 to 3 metres. The main crown is slightly open and wide spread.

The proposed works for both trees are to reduce to a height of 2 to 2.5 metres Pittosporum trees T6 and T7. The works are to contain the size and spread of the trees.

The works to trees T3 T4 T6 and T7 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 Southwick Conservation Area.

The felling of the Purple- leaved Plum T5 will be large in relation to the overall number of trees and an amount of change will take place, however the effect on the Conservation area will be minimal

Recommendation

Grant Consent, Not subject to Conditions:

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation?

No

Case Officer: JDS Date: 12/12/2023

Authorised by: PB Date: 12/12/23