Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 28/03/24**

Application Number	**AWDM/0131/24**
Address	**6 Salvington Hill Worthing West Sussex BN13 3AS**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.8 of 2021 to reduce crown height by up to 1 metre and radial spread by up to 2 metres three Silver Birch T1 T2 & T3 and one Beech tree T4.**

Date of site visit: 06/03/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to four medium sized mature and early mature trees located along the Western boundary of the front garden. 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 three Silver Birch T1 T2 & T3 and one Beech tree T4.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

2021: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 6 of 2021 confirmed on 22/09/2021.

Planning Assessment

The trees are three Silver Birch and a single Beech growing in the front garden adjacent to the recently built front garden wall and the pavement of Salvington Hill. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views. The trees are:

Silver Birch T1
This tree is the furthest North of the four and has a slender single stem to 2.5 metres where it then divides into several upright stems. There are upright scaffold limbs and secondary ascending limbs that emerge from 1 metre. The main crown is moderately dense and wide spread.

Silver Birch T2
The centre tree of the three Silver Birch is set slightly further to the East. The tree is single stemmed to 2 metres, where it then divides into several stems that form a tight array and give the crown a distinct Wine glass shape. The main crown is dense and mostly compact with some protruding laterals.

Silver Birch T3
The Silver Birch tree T3 is single stemmed to one metre, where two secondary stems emerge. All three stems begin to divide from 1.75 to 2 metres, forming a mostly compact and upright array with some slightly wider spreading limbs to the West.

The proposed works for all three Silver Birch trees are to reduce crown height by up to 1 metre and reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the trees, and appear to have been overestimated, and therefore changed by conditions.

Beech tree T4
This tree is the furthest South of the four trees, located close to the Southwest corner of the front garden. The Beech tree is the oldest and largest of the group and has a larger diameter single stem to 2.25 metres, where it divides into 3 to 4 tightly forked stems that each divide again from 3.5 metres. 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 1 metre and radial spread by up to 2 metres, to contain the size and spread of the tree. The works have also been amended by conditions.

These amended 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 to the Silver Birch trees T1 T2 and T3, hereby permitted, shall be restricted to;

   i Reduction in radial spread of up to 1 metre.

   ii No reduction in crown height.

   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.*

3. The proposed works to the Beech tree T4, hereby permitted, shall be restricted to;

   i Reduction in radial spread of up to 1 to 1.5 metres, 1.5 metres on the longest most protruding limbs.

   ii No reduction in crown height.

   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: 28/03/2024

Authorised by: Gary Peck Date: 28 March 2024