Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 02/10/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0900/24**
Address	**43 Hurston Close Worthing West Sussex BN14 0AX**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.26 of 1990 to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, and reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres, one Sycamore tree T1 of group G2.**

Date of site visit: 12/09/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a large mature Sycamore tree located on the Eastern boundary of the rear garden. The tree is a part of the local landscape and makes a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread one Sycamore tree T1 of group G2.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1990: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 26 of 1990 confirmed on 26/11/90.

1996: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 3 of 1996 confirmed on 26/09/96.

2009: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 3 of 1996 to remove deadwood, crown thin by 15% and crown reduce towards house by up to 1 metre one Ash (T4); to crown thin by 15% and crown reduce by up to 2 metres one Sycamore; to crown lift to 3 metres, remove deadwood and remove epicormic growth to 3 Silver Birch (Group G2) and remove small lower branch at 7 ft on one Sycamore (part of G1) on eastern boundary

2012: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 3 of 1996 to fell one Ash (T4) and one Sycamore (Part of Group G2) and to replant with two trees in a more suitable location; and to remove one stem from each of two twin-stemmed Silver Birch trees along southern boundary, to allow a dominant leader to remain (also part of Group G2). Split Decision – Approved works to S Birch trees, Refused felling of Ash tree T4.

2012: Application for consent under the Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 3 of 1996 to fell one Silver Birch tree (Betula pendula) with large wound (part of group G2) and replace with same species in suitable location.

2015: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.3 of 1996 to reduce radial spread and crown height by up to 1.5 metres, crown lift up to 5 metres one Sycamore tree T3, to reduce crown height by up to 1 metre three Silver Birch trees of group G2, to reduce radial spread by up to 1.5 metres reducing the longest limbs on south side by up to 2.5 metres, and reduce crown height by 1.5 metres one Sycamore tree of group G2 and to reduce radial spread and crown height by up to 2 metres on one Ash tree T4.

2021: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 3 of 1996 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 4 to 5 metres one Ash tree T4.

2024: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.3 of 1996 to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, and reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres, Sycamore tree T3 and Sycamore tree T1 of group G2.

Planning Assessment
The tree is a large mature Sycamore growing in the rear garden close to the Southeast corner adjacent to the rear garden of number 4 Warren Farm Place. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree has twin stems from ground level: one main straight upright stem to the South, and a second stem to the North, that is parallel to 1.2 metres, and then twists around the Southern stem and divides into two ascending stems from 2 metres The Southern stem persists to 6 metres before beginning to divide. 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 2 metres, and reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree, and allow more light to pass over and around the crown.

These works in my opinion would be relatively minor in relation to the overall size, spread and crown form of the tree and would not significantly or adversely affect its appearance, amenity value, or 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: 02/10/2024

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 03/10/2024