Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 20/02/24**

Application Number	**AWDM/1737/23**
Address	**Whitebeam Woods Whitebeam Road West Sussex**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.4 of 2021 to reduce radial spread back to boundary line, group of Elm trees of Woodland G1.**

Date of site visit: 07/02/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a group of small immature Elm trees within Whitebeam Woods, growing close to the boundary fence of 5 Cypress Avenue, the property of the applicants. The trees are a part of the local landscape and make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce radial spread back to the boundary line of the neighbouring property.

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

Consultations: Letter sent to the Worthing Parks and Foreshore, who did not respond.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

2021: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 4 of 2021 confirmed on 10/11/2021.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.4 of 2021 to reduce radial spread by up to 2.1 metres, one Willow tree T1 of Woodland W1.

Planning Assessment

The trees are a cluster of small thin immature trees and tall saplings growing within 2 metres of the rear garden boundary fence of 5 Cypress Close. The trees are a minor part of the woodland Whitebeam Woods, which extends from Whitebeam Road in the North to adjacent to the Littlehampton Road to the South. The Willow is one of many tall fully mature trees growing in the connecting corridor that runs north to south, adjacent to the slightly more open Longcroft Park.

The trees are mostly small slender single and twin stemmed Elms in a relatively dense cluster, with some of the taller trees overhanging the fence line. The proposed works are to reduce radial spread back to the boundary line. The works are to contain the spread of the trees and allow more light into the property.

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: 20/02/2024

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 20.02.2024