**Development Management – Delegated Officer Report** **Date; 19/01/24**

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| **Application Number** | **AWDM/1462/23** |
| **Address** | **102 Rectory Road Worthing West Sussex BN14 7PN** |
| **Proposal** | **Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.15 of 2006 to reduce radial spread to north by up to 4 metres, and crown lift up to 6 metres, two Beech and one Sycamore of group G3.** |

**Date of site visit:** 28/11/23

**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 three large mature trees in the rear garden of the property, adjacent to its southern boundary. The trees are part of an established group, in the centre of the area bounded by Rectory Road Broomfield Avenue and the Thomas A'Becket Middle School to the South. The trees make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce radial spread to north and crown lift u two Beech and one Sycamore of group G3.

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

**Consultations:** None.

**Representations:** One representation received in support of the works.

**Relevant Planning History**

2006: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 15 of 2006 confirmed on 31/10/2006.

2011: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 15/2006 to reduce Multi Stem Lime tree (T16) back from property by 3 metres and reduce height of Bay (T13) by 30% and remove overhanging limbs from over garden.

2015: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.15 of 2006 to crown lift up to 6 metres one Sycamore tree and two Beech trees of group G3.

**Planning Assessment**

The trees are three large matures growing in the rear garden to the east of the main building, adjacent to the boundaries with 106 and 106a Rectory Road. The trees make a significant contribution to the sylvan character of the area, and can be seen from many views. The trees are;

<u>Sycamore T1</u>
The Sycamore tree is the furthest east of group G3 and is a twin stemmed tree with a single combined stem that divides at 1 metre above ground level. The tree has two stout stems that each

persist to the top of the crown. Although part of the group of trees G3, the main crown is not fully intertwined with the neighbouring Beech trees.

Beech T2
This is the central tree of the three, with a single main stem. There is a slightly smaller secondary stem that emerges from 5 metres on the west side of the main trunk. The tree is rather slender, and has many low hanging secondary limbs.

Beech T3
The Beech tree to the western end of the group is multi-stemmed from ground level with 4-5 tall slender stems that each remains entire to the top of the tree. The Beech T3 is the largest and widest spread of the group with numerous pendulous secondary limbs. There is also a relatively large Sycamore tree that has grown within the main cluster of stems.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread to north by up to 4 metres, and crown lift up to 6 metres, two Beech and one Sycamore of group G3. The works are to contain the size and spread of the trees, allow access and allow more light and air to pass beneath the crown.

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: 19/01/2024

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 19/01/2024