Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 21/05/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0279/24**
Address	**55 Alinora Avenue Worthing West Sussex BN12 4LY**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.21 of 2005 to reduce radial spread by up to 3 metres Beech trees T1 and T2, to radial spread by up to 2 to 3 metres, and crown lift up to 2 metres Beech tree T3, reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres to North Beech tree T4, and to reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres to 2.5 metres Beech tree T5, all of group G1.**

Date of site visit: 23/04/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to five large mature Beech trees part of group G1 which runs from close to the pavement of Alinora Avenue to the south western boundary of 1 Alinora Drive. The trees are a prominent part of the street scene and make a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to crown lift and reduce radial spread on five Beech trees of group G1 within the front side and rear gardens of 55 Alinora Avenue.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: two objections received, one from the Goring and Ilex Conservation Group, and one from a nearby neighbour. Both object to the reduction in height. This was a mistake made in the description of the works as no reduction in crown height was requested by the applicant.

Relevant Planning History

2005: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 21 of 2005 confirmed on 17/11/2005.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.21 of 2005 to crown lift by up to 4m four Beech trees within group G1. (1a Alinora Drive)

2019: Application under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No 21 of 2005 to crown lift from 2m to 4m and reduce crown from 6m to 4m of 5no. Beech trees in the group G1.

2019: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 21 of 2005 for works to 5no. Beech trees within Group G1: Lift crown to 6m over drive and 7m over garden, reduce radial crown spread by 2.5m to north, reduce lateral limb at 12m to north over roof by 3m T1; Lift crown to 6m over drive and to 7m over garden, reduce radial crown spread by 2.5m to north T2; Lift crown to 3m over car port and 7m over garden, reduce radial crown spread by

2.5m to north T3; Lift crown to 2.5m over garage and 7m over garden, reduce radial crown spread by 2.5m to north T4; Lift crown to 2.5m over garage and 7m over garden, reduce radial crown spread by 2.5m to north T5.

Planning Assessment

The trees are large matures that are part of the linear group G1, that extends from the rear garden of 1a Alinora Drive at its western end, and extends eastward into the rear and front gardens of 55 Alinora Avenue. The trees are visible from Keymer Crescent to the south as well as from the wide linking road of Alinora Avenue. The trees are all of a similar size and shape, with single stems from ground level that divide into either two or several upright tightly forked stems that mostly persist to the tops of the trees, from between 2 to 2.5 metres. The main crowns are mostly intertwined with the main central scaffold stems being compact and upright, each supporting wider spread smaller lateral branches.

The trees are fully mature and have some fused stems, including bark deadwood and some large cavities. Although faults are present that would be expected of such mature trees none of the defects are considered to be seriously compromising to the trees.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread by up to 3 metres Beech trees T1 and T2, at the Eastern end of the linear group, to reduce radial spread by up to 2 to 3 metres, and crown lift up to 2 metres Beech tree T3, reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres to North Beech tree T4, and to reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres to 2.5 metres Beech tree T5. The works are to contain the spread of the trees, abate nuisance where close to buildings and allow access and more light to pass beneath the crowns.

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?

Two objections were received objecting to a reduction in crown height, which was mistakenly added and not part of the original application.

Case Officer: JDS Date: 21/05/2024

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 21.05.2024