Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 23/05/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0308/24**
Address	**1 Fontwell Drive Worthing West Sussex BN14 0AF**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.1 of 2007 to fell and replace one Ash one Elm and one Monterey Cypress of woodland W1.**

Date of site visit: 02/04/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two large mature trees: an Ash and a Monterey Cypress, and one smaller mature Elm of group W1 which is a small wooded area that runs from 142 Warren Road in the east, to the entrance of Fontwell Drive to the northwest. The group of 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 fell and replace one Ash, one Elm and one Monterey Cypress of woodland W1.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

2007: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 1 of 2007 confirmed on 17/07/2007.

2011: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 1 of 2007 to fell two Ash, one Cherry, one Hornbeam, one Norway Maple and one Sycamore; and to crown reduce and to prune/thin various other Ash, Hornbeam and Norway Maple trees and Field Maple, Cypress, Hornbeam, Silver Birch, Sycamore and Whitebeam trees (within woodland W1). Refused.

2011: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 1 of 2007 to fell one Ash (7), one Sycamore (43), one Wild Cherry (49), one Hornbeam (60) and one Swedish Whitebeam (62); and to crown thin by 20%, and crown lift to 3m on northern side, two Hornbeams (51 and 52), and crown thin by 15% one Field Maple (32) and one Sycamore (59) subject to replanting (Part of Woodland W1) (Reason: Light to the flats in Fontwell Drive); and consent to reduce by 2m over car park one Sycamore (1) (Part of Group G5)

2011: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 1 of 2007 to fell one Wild Cherry (49) (Reasons: Safety and light to the flats); and for consent to remove dead wood on one Ash (11); reduce canopy by up to 3m on one Ash (13); reduce height to 5m (pollard) one multi-stemmed Ash (18); reduce canopy on south side by 5m and by up to 2m on north and east sides on one Sycamore (21); reduce southern limb by 3m and deadwood one Field Maple

(25); remove dead wood on one Willow (34); reduce southern limb by 30% on one Sycamore (38); remove included limb and crown thin by 20% one Norway Maple (50); and remove weak inclusion on one further Norway Maple (67) (Reasons: Safety to the A27)

2018: Application under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 1of 2007 to coppice at 500mm unbalanced crown of Ash and coppice Willow at 500mm within group W1.

2022: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.1 of 2007 to radial spread by up to 3 metre north crown one tree Field Maple T1, reduce elongated growth protruding from main crown by 2 to 3 metres, and crown thin up to 15% one Sycamore tree T3, reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres, and re-pollard separate northern stem at 3 metres one Norway Maple T4, and to fell and replace one Sycamore tree T2 all of Woodland W1.

Planning Assessment

Fontwell Drive is a 2-storey block of 18 flats at the junction of Warren Road with Findon Road. It has a rear service road and car park with access to the A24 Findon Road. Formerly developed by and owned by Worthing Borough Council, it was acquired by Worthing Homes Ltd, in 2000, who are the current owners. The trees referred to in the application are two tall matures: one Ash, and one Monterey Cypress, and a smaller Elm, all within the main woodland

The trees are;

Monterey Cypress
This tree has a leaning single stem to 2 metres, where it then divides into two that each emerge on the Southern side. The tree has an imbalance to the South with minimal branch work and sparse foliage on its North. The tree appears to have moved on its root plate (tipping to the South) approximately 4 to 5 years ago. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended and low hanging laterals.

Ash
The Ash tree is located near the Eastern end of the Woodland close to the boundary with 142 Warren Road. The tree has a tall slender single stem that persists to 6 metres where it then divides into two, with each stem dividing several times to the top. The upper crown is mostly sparse with some damaged branches, thought to be due to Ash Dieback. The main crown is sparse and compact..

Elm
This tree is growing in the Southeast of the woodland close to the low boundary wall fronting onto the Offington Corner Roundabout. The tree has a single stem to 1.5 metres, where it begins to divide. The tree has been dead for more than one season, having had an Elm Beetle incursion and subsequently Dutch Elm disease. The main crown has partially collapsed with some large limbs and secondary stems already lost.

The proposed works are to fell and replace all three trees. The works are due to poor condition and/or disease.

These works in my opinion will be large in relation to the overall number of trees and a significant amount of change will take place. However the effect on the area will be compensated with the provision of replacement trees.

Recommendation

APPROVE

Grant Consent, subject to the following Conditions:

1. Approved plans

2. The proposed felling of the Monterey Cypress Ash and Elm trees of Woodland W1 and their replacements shall be carried out in full within two years from the date of this consent and in accordance with details of the size, species and position of the replacement tree planting to be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

   Reason: *In the interest of visual amenity.*

3. If within five years following replanting, any of the replacement trees die or become seriously diseased, another tree of the same size and species shall be planted in a similar position during the next planting season following the removal of the replacement tree, unless the Local Planning Authority gives written approval to any variation.

   Reason: *In the interest of visual amenity.*

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation?

No

Case Officer: JDS Date: 23/05/2024

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 23.05.2024