Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 12/12/23**

Application Number	**AWDM/1434/23**
Address	**23 Offington Gardens Worthing West Sussex BN14 9AU**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.41 of 1990 to fell and replace one Beech tree T1 of group G2.**

Date of site visit: 21/11/23

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 Beech located near the Northwest corner of the rear garden. The tree is a prominent part of the local landscape and makes a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to fell and replace the tree.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1990: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 41 of 1990 confirmed on 18/03/1991.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Beech growing in the rear garden adjacent to the rear garden of 25 Offington Gardens and the rear gardens of properties in Offington Lane. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree has a large diameter single stem to 4 metres, where it divides into two main stems that each divide again at 5 to 6 metres, and several more times to the top of the crown. A very large limb emerges from 2 metres on the Southern side that extends widely. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals, but has few buds and has reportedly been in decline from early spring 2023.

The proposed works are to fell and replace the tree. The works are being carried out as the tree appears to be dead for some time and additionally has deep cavities and areas of dead bark at the base.

The 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 a replacement tree.

Recommendation

APPROVE

Grant Consent, subject to the following Conditions:

1. Approved plans

2. The proposed felling of the Beech tree T1 of Group G2, identified on the applicants plan as T1, and its replacement 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, the replacement tree dies or becomes 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: 12/12/2023

Authorised by: PB Date: 12/12/23