Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 03/08/23**

Application Number	**AWDM/0834/23**
Address	**Goring Library Mulberry Lane Worthing West Sussex BN12 4NR**
Proposal	**Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to crown lift up to 2 to 2.5 metres, one Cherry tree T1 and one Conifer tree T2 in the Goring Conservation Area.**

Date of site visit: 29/06/23

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two small to medium sized mature trees, one Cherry near the located near the northeast corner of the grounds, and a Conifer tree close to the centre of the southern frontage near the main building. The trees are a prominent part of the street scene and make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the Goring Conservation Area.

Consent is sought to crown lift, one Cherry tree T1 and one Conifer tree T2

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1985: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 13 of 1985 confirmed on 13/12/1985.

1989: The property is included within the Goring Conservation Area (IX) designated by the Council on 25th April 1989.

2004: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 13 of 1985 to cut back limbs overhanging toilet block to give 1 metre clearance of building, remove deadwood from crown, crown lift branches over access path to a height of 2 metres by cutting back branches and selective limb removal to one Black Mulberry (T7).

2007: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 13 of 1985 to remove large torn limb stump from Black Mulberry (T7), to the branch union.

2010: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 13 of 1985 to prune back branches of Mulberry Tree (T7) on the north-west side of Goring Library to clear telephone lines.

2012: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.13 of 1985 to reduce crown spread of one Black Mulberry (T7) to clear the building by 1 metre, and to clear telephone lines, and to crown lift the tree to 2 metres over the adjacent public footpath

2016: Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2.5 to 3 metres one Purple Leaved Plum tree in the Goring Conservation Area.

Planning Assessment

The trees are a small mature Cherry growing in the Northeast of the grounds, adjacent to the junction of the public right of way “The Bury” and Mulberry Lane, and a slightly larger Leyland Cypress tree on the west side of the entrance footpath from Goring Road, close to the main library building. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views. The trees are:

Cherry tree T1
This tree has a single stem to 1.8 metres where it then divides into multiple stems and laterals, with 3 to 4 main scaffold stems that each persist to 2.5 metres where the stems divide again. The main crown is dense and wide spread with many low hanging secondary and tertiary branches.

Conifer tree T2
The Conifer tree T2 is multi-stemmed from a common source 0.3 metres above ground level. The mass of stems are mostly clear to 2 metres, and each begins to divide at 2.25 metres. The main crown is broadly domed, dense and wide spread with some lower laterals to the eastside over the entrance path to the Library.

The proposed works for both trees are to crown lift up to 2 to 2.5 metres, the works are to allow access 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 Goring Conservation Area.

Recommendation

Grant Consent, Not subject to Conditions:

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation?

No

Case Officer: JDS Date: 03/08/2023

Authorised by: PB Date: 3/8/23