Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 15/10/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0946/24**
Address	**37a Offington Lane Worthing West Sussex BN14 9RG**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.5 of 1989 to remove lowest limb to North, and crown lift up to 7 metres, one Ash tree T1 of group G1.**

Date of site visit: 10/10/24

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 Ash tree located near the Northeast 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 remove lowest limb to North, and crown lift one Ash tree T1.

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

1989: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 5 of 1989 confirmed on 26/01/90.

2011: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 5 of 1989 to crown lift to 4.5 metres, remove dead wood, cut back from roof of property by up to 1 metre and thin by 5% one Ash tree (T2) adjacent to northern boundary

2011: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 5 of 1989 to crown lift to 4 metres, reduce branches over roof of 37a Offington Lane by average of 1 metre, remove dead wood, and thin south part of canopy by 10% on one English Oak (T1) in south-western corner of rear garden; and to crown lift to 4.5 metres, thin canopy by 10% and remove dead wood on one English Oak tree (T3) in south eastern corner of rear garden

2015: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.5 of 1989 to reduce radial spread on south side by up to 2 metres on one Oak tree T3 in the rear garden of 14 Greyfriars Close, and to fell and replace one Ash tree T2 in the garden of 37a Offington Drive Road.

Planning Assessment
The tree is a large mature Ash growing in the rear garden close to the boundary with 14 Greyfriars Close. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree has a central stem to 4 metres where it then divides into a cluster of upright stems in a tight array, with secondary stems that emerge from 2.75 metres that achieves an equal height in the crown, and support the wider spread and lower hanging branches. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to remove the lowest limb to North, and crown lift up to 7 metres. The works are to contain the Northern spread of the tree, and allow access and more light and air to pass through beneath the crown.

These works in my opinion would be relatively minor in relation to the overall size, spread and crown form of the tree and would not significantly or adversely affect its appearance, amenity value, or its 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: 15/10/2024

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 15.10.2024