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

Application Number	**AWDM/0969/24**
Address	**35 First Avenue Worthing West Sussex BN14 9NJ**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.31 of 2003 to reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres, crown lift up to 6 metres, and crown thin 15% one Beech tree T8.**

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 Beech located near the Northeast corner of the front garden adjacent to the entrance driveway from First Avenue. The tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce radial, crown lift and crown thin.

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

2003: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 31 of 2003 confirmed on 12/09/2003.

2009: Application to cut back branches of Beech tree (T8) to clear telephone wires. Granted conditional consent 27-07-2009

2013: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 31 of 2003 to Fell one Lawson cypress tree (of group G2) Crown lift up to 4.5 metres thin by up to 10% and reduce radial spread by up to 1 metre one Beech tree T8, Crown lift up to 4 metres crown thin by up to 10% and reduce radial spread by up to 1 metre one Beech tree T10, and to Reduce radial spread by up to 1 metre and crown thin by up to 10% one Purple-leaved plum T7.

2019: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 31 of 2003 to raise canopy to 4.5m, thin by 15% and remove dead wood, reduce radial spread by up to 1.5m to one Beach (T8).

2021: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.31 of 2003 to reduce radial spread by 0.5 to 1.5 metres and crown thin up to 15% one Variegated Sycamore of group G2, and to reduce radial spread by up to 0.5 metres and deadwood one Purple Leaved Plum T7

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Beech growing in the front garden adjacent to the entrance driveway from First Avenue, straddling the border between 35 and 37 First Avenue. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree has a single stem to 2 metres where it then begins to divide into several mostly upright slender stems. There are areas of included bark, deadwood and some fused stems. The first significant sized limbs that emerge from 4 metres, with some lower hanging foliage. The main crown is dense and wide spread.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres, crown lift up to 6 metres, crown thin 15%. The works are to contain the spread of the tree, allow access beneath and allow more light and air to pass through 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: Louise Prew Date: 15/10/2024