Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 12/02/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/1453/24**
Address	**Land Site College Gardens Worthing West Sussex**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.8 of 1982 to crown lift up to 6 metres one English oak tree T7.**

Date of site visit: 08/01/25

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a medium to large mature English Oak located near the Western entrance to College gardens, adjacent to the public pavement of tGrand Avenue. The tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to crown lift English oak tree T7.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1982: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 8 of 1982 confirmed on 07/01/1983.

1996: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No 8/1982 to fell one Flowering Cherry (T47) and replant with Cheals Weeping Cherry.

1997: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8/1982 for crown thinning by 20% three Flowering Crab (T42, T43,T44) and remove crossed abrading branches of two Flowering Cherry (T45 and T46).

2013: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8 of 1982 to crown lift to 3 metres three Lime trees (T2 T3 & T5) one Horse Chestnut Tree (T8) and one Copper Beech (T10) Crown lift to 2.5 metres one Leyland Cypress (T26) and one Sycamore tree (T16) Reduce radial spread to clear building by up to 2 metres one Cherry (T37) and prune to clear street light one Sycamore (T21)

2015: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.8 of 1982 to reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres one Flowering Cherry tree T38.

2016: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.8 of 1982 to reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres on east side of two Lime trees T3 and T5, and to reduce to clear Street Light one Oak tree T7.

2017: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8 of 1982 to reduce height of east stem with cavity at union to 5m and reduce weight and loading on main union at 4m to one Sycamore T6.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8 of 1982 to reduce height by up to 2m, reduce radial crown spread by up to 3m to all aspects one Cherry tree T46; to reduce height by up to 2m and radial crown spread by up to 2m to all aspects one Cherry tree T38.

2019: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8 of 1982 to crown lift to 5m 3no. Lime trees T2, T3 and T5; crown lift to 5m over road and crown lift to 3m over footpath one Oak T7; crown lift to 3m one Horse Chestnut tree T8 and to crown lift to 2.5m one Crab Apple tree T41.

2020: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8 of 1982 to reduce radial spread to east and west away from property by 1 metre, and crown thin up to 10% one Cherry tree T38.

2021: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8 of 1982 to crown lift up to 6 metres to east Sycamore T19, Crown lift up to 3 to 6 metres and to prune to clear street light by up to 1.5 metres Sycamore T21, prune to clear street light by up to 1.5 metres one Oak tree T7 and to crown lift by 0.5 to 1.8 metres Crab Apple trees T42, T43 and T44

2023: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.8 of 1982 to reduce radial spread to clear building by up to 1.5 metres, Beech tree T10, and to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1.5 metres one Flowering Cherry T46.

2024: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.8 of 1982 to reduce crown height by up to 1.5 metres and reduce radial spread by up to 1 to 1.5 metres, one Cherry tree T38.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a tall mature English Oak growing in the open grounds between the properties of 78 to 96 College Gardens and Grand Avenue, close to the junction of Grand Avenue and College Gardens. The tree is prominent to the area and can be seen from many views.

The tree has a single clear stem that divides into two with a wide “Y” shape union at 3.75 metres. The two stems extend to 8 to 10 metres where they begin to divide again. The first limbs emerge from 6 metres. The main crown is dense and widespread with some lower hanging slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to crown lift up to 6 metres one English oak tree T7. The works are to allow clearance beneath the crown to West Sussex Highways standards over the adjacent carriageway.

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:12/02/2025

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 12.02.2025