Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 17/04/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/0186/25**
Address	**Ridgewood West Hill Close Worthing West Sussex BN13 3SE**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.5 of 1991 to reduce crown height by up to 4 metres, and reduce radial spread by up to 1.5 metres two Western Red Cedar trees of group G1.**

Date of site visit: 20/03/25

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two tall large mature Red Western Cedar trees located near the centre of the Eastern boundary adjacent to the un-adopted roadway of Gorse Lane. The trees are a prominent part of the street scene and make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and spread two Western Red Cedar trees of group G1.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1991: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 5 of 1991 confirmed on 20/01/1992.

2004: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 5/1991 to fell two Western Red Cedar trees (Group G1) Refused.

2004: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 5/1991 to fell two Western Red Cedar trees (Group G1) Refused. Appeal Dismissed

Planning Assessment

The trees are two large mature Western Red Cedars growing in the rear garden adjacent to the road of Gorse Lane, which are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The trees are;

<u>Western Red Cedar tree T1 of group G1</u>
This tree is to the North of the two and has a large diameter single stem that persists to 14 metres, where it then divides into three upright secondary stems that each mostly persist to the top. The first limbs emerge from 4 metres and are downward pointing, remaining close to the main stem.

Western Red Cedar tree T2 of group G1
The Southern tree has a large diameter single stem to 12 metres, with a large secondary to the south that emerges from 4 metres. The secondary stem extends horizontally for 1 metre, where it becomes upright on a 45 degrees bend, extending to approximately 10 metres. The main bole divides into two upright secondary stems from 12 metres, that each mostly persist to the top. The main crown of the two trees is fully combined, as the trees are within 2 to 3 metres of each other. This forms a dense and widespread crown with some connection to the unprotected trees on the Eastern side of the unmade roadway of Gorse Lane.

The proposed works for both trees are to reduce crown height by up to 4 metres, and reduce radial spread by up to 1.5 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the trees and to allow more light and air to pass the combined crown.

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 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:17/04/2025

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 22.04.2025