Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 13/10/23**

Application Number	**AWDM/1124/23**
Address	**Goring Library Mulberry Lane Worthing West Sussex BN12 4NR**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.13 of 1985 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres one Black Mulberry tree T7, and to remove deadwood from Turkey Oak T8.**

Date of site visit: 17/08/23

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two large mature trees located near the Northwest corner of the grounds. The trees are a prominent part of the street scene and make a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the Goring Conservation Area.

Consent is sought to

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

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

Consultations: Letter sent to The Worthing Society, who did not respond.

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.

2023: 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.

2023: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.13 of 1985 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres one Black Mulberry tree T7, and to remove deadwood from Turkey Oak T8.

2023: Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres one Yew tree T2, crown lift up to 3 metres Yew tree T4, crown lift up to 2.5 metres, and reduce lowest southern limb by up to 2 metres Mulberry Tree T5, reduce crown height by up to 4 metres and reduce radial spread up to 2 metres one Cherry tree T14 and to fell and replace Purple leaved plum tree T11 in the Goring Conservation Area.

Planning Assessment

The trees are a medium sized mature Mulberry and a mature and slightly taller Turkey Oak growing in the rear grounds of the Library adjacent to the Burry Public footpath that links Mulberry Lane to Compton Avenue. The trees are established features of the area having high public amenity value as well as the Black Mulberry tree having some local historic interest.

The trees are:

<u>Black Mulberry T7</u>
This tree is the closest to the northern boundary, located to the east of the internal footpath that links Goring Road to the Burry. The tree has a gnarled single stemmed to 1 metre where it then divides into with a wide “Y” shaped union. The south stem divides again at 2 to 2.25 metres, with the northern stem persisting to the top of the crown. The main crown is open and wide spreading. The north stem has a large cavity near its base.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree.

<u>Turkey Oak T8</u>
The Turkey Oak T8 is growing in a narrow border slightly further South adjacent to the boundary with Rose Cottage. The tree has a straight single stem to 12 metres, with the first laterals emerging from 6 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread, with a heavy incursion of Ivy on the lower crown.

The proposed works are to remove deadwood for safety and amenity value.

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 Goring Conservation 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: 13/10/2023

Authorised by: PB Date: 13/10/23