Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 02/10/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0993/24**
Address	**43 Hurston Close Worthing West Sussex BN14 0AX**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.3 of 1996 to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, and reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres, Sycamore tree T3 and Sycamore tree T1 of group G2.**

Date of site visit: 12/09/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two large mature Sycamore trees located along the Southern boundary of the rear and side gardens. 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 radial spread Sycamore tree T3 and Sycamore tree T1 of group G2.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1990: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 3 of 1996 confirmed on 26/11/90.

2009: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 3 of 1996 to remove deadwood, crown thin by 15% and crown reduce towards house by up to 1 metre one Ash (T4); to crown thin by 15% and crown reduce by up to 2 metres one Sycamore; to crown lift to 3 metres, remove deadwood and remove epicormic growth to 3 Silver Birch (Group G2) and remove small lower branch at 7 ft on one Sycamore (part of G1) on eastern boundary

2012: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 3 of 1996 to fell one Ash (T4) and one Sycamore (Part of Group G2) and to replant with two trees in a more suitable location; and to remove one stem from each of two twin-stemmed Silver Birch trees along southern boundary, to allow a dominant leader to remain (also part of Group G2). Split Decision – Approved works to S Birch trees, Refused felling of Ash tree T4.

2012: Application for consent under the Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 3 of 1996 to fell one Silver Birch tree (Betula pendula) with large wound (part of group G2) and replace with same species in suitable location.

2015: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.3 of 1996 to reduce radial spread and crown height by up to 1.5 metres, crown lift up to 5 metres one Sycamore tree T3, to reduce crown height by up to 1 metre three Silver Birch trees of group G2, to reduce radial spread by up to 1.5 metres reducing the longest limbs on south side by up to 2.5 metres, and reduce crown height by 1.5 metres one Sycamore tree of group G2 and to reduce radial spread and crown height by up to 2 metres on one Ash tree T4.

2021: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 3 of 1996 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 4 to 5 metres one Ash tree T4.

2024: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.26 of 1990 to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, and reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres, one Sycamore tree T1 of group G2.

Planning Assessment

The trees are two large mature Sycamores growing in the rear garden adjacent to the boundary with 3 Warren Farm Place. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from several views.

The trees are:

Sycamore T1 of group G2
This tree has a single stem that is clear to 2 metres where the first equal height secondary stems merge. The main stem persists in a reduced form to 4 metres, it then divides into several stems that each divide again several times to the top. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, and reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow clearance to the adjacent building.

Sycamore Tree T3
The Sycamore Tree T3 is an individual tree growing on the Southern boundary close to the Southeast corner of the rear garden. The tree has a single stem to 2.25 metres where it becomes twin, with each stem persisting to within 2 to 3 metres of the top. The first significant laterals emerge from 5 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, and reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow more light and air to pass the 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: 02/10/2024

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 02/10/2024