Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 06/08/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0653/24**
Address	**30 Fulmer Court Boundary Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 4LU**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.34 of 1995 to fell and replace one Sycamore tree T1 of group G1.**

Date of site visit: 06/06/24

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 Sycamore located on the Western boundary, close to number 5 Boundary Road. The tree is part of a group that is prominent to the street scene and makes a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to fell and replace the tree.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1995: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 34 of 1995 confirmed on 28/11/1995.

2001: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 34.1995 to remove damaged branches back to parent branch or main stem. Remove deadwood, crown lift to 4.5 metres and thin crown by 20%, one medium Holm Oak

2004: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 34/1995 to remove lower limbs overhanging the highway and public footpath, remove dead wood and epicormic growth, remove limb leaning towards the building back to a major fork - one Holm Oak (T3)

2008: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 34/1995 to crown lift to 3 metres, reduce crown spread by 2 metres, removal of further secondary branches on west side to give a clearance of 1.5 metres to neighbouring roof of 5 Acre Gardens, and clean out crown of 6 no. Sycamore (G1).

2012: Partial crown thin by 5-10%, crown lift to 5.5m over highway, and crown reduction by up to 1m on north-west side of T3 Holm Oak; and crown thin by 10%, crown lift to 5.5m over highway and 3.5m over parking bay, and general reshaping reduction on south side of T1. Works to trees subject to Worthing TPO No 34 of 1995

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 34 of 1995 to cut back two sections nearest top floor windows by approximately 1.5m to one Holm Oak T3 in SE corner. Thin canopies by 15%, cut back from roof of 5 Acre Gardens to give 2.5m clearance, raise canopies to 5m, reduce radial spread by up to 1m to four Sycamores in group G1

Planning Assessment

The Sycamore T1 is part of a linear group G1, that runs from the southwest corner of the site northward until level with the main building. The group is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree is single stemmed to 1.4 metres, where it divides into two parallel upright stems that have each been reduced at 6 metres. The re-growth is clusters of tall slender stems that mostly persist to the top. The main crown is de-foliated with no greenery or buds, in a mostly compact upright form.

The proposed works are to fell and replace the dead tree.

These works in my opinion will be large in relation to the overall number of trees and a significant amount of change will take place. However the effect on the area will be compensated with the provision of a replacement tree.

Recommendation

APPROVE

Grant Consent, subject to the following Conditions:

1. Approved plans

2. The proposed felling of the Sycamore tree T1 of group G1 and its replacement shall be carried out in full within two years from the date of this consent and in accordance with details of the size species and position of the replacement tree planting to be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

   Reason: *In the interest of visual amenity.*

3. If within five years following replanting, any of the replacement tree dies or becomes seriously diseased, another tree of the same size and species shall be planted in a similar position during the next planting season following the removal of the replacement tree, unless the Local Planning Authority gives written approval to any variation.

   Reason: *In the interest of visual amenity.*

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation?

No

Case Officer: JDS Date: 06/08/2024

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 07.08.2024