Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 02/10/23**

Application Number	**AWDM/1068/23**
Address	**Street Record Lamorna Grove Worthing West Sussex**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.16 of 2003 to reduce radial spread to the south by up to 2.5 metres and crown lift up to 6 metres three Holm Oak trees of group G5, and to crown lift up to 5.5 metres, Atlas Cedar T10 Holm Oak T11 and Ash T12.**

Date of site visit: 26/09/23

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to six large mature trees: three Holm Oaks near the southeast corner of the grounds close to Leyeshurst 52 Lamorna Grove, and one Atlas Cedar Holm Oak and Ash that are located from the entrance to Lamorna Grove to the south of group G5, The trees are a prominent part of the street scene and make a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce radial spread to the south and crown lift three Holm Oak trees of group G5, and to crown lift Atlas Cedar T10 Holm Oak T11 and Ash T12.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1976: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 16 of 1976 confirmed on 28/09/1976.

1991: Application to reduce height of Sycamore Tree to between eight and nine metres, together with lopping of branches overhanging public footpath (subject to Worthing Tree Preservation

1993: Application to reduce height of Sycamore tree to between eight and nine metres, together with lopping of branches overhanging public footpath (subject to Worthing Tree Preservation) Refused.

1999: Application under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No 4 of 1969 to fell one Himalayan Cedar Tree (T4)

2000: Application for Consent Under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 16/1976 to crown lift one Chestnut tree, one Sycamore and three Ilex trees by 30 feet (9.144 metres), 20 feet (6.096

metres) and 15 feet (4.077 metres) respectively, dead wood one Cedar tree and dead wood and reshape one Cedrus Atlantica

2003: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 16 of 2003 confirmed on 12/08/2003.

2012: Application to crown reduce one Ash (T12) and to reduce spread to north side by 2 metres and reduce spread to south side by 3 metres on one Holm Oak (part of Group G5).

2013: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 13 of 2003 to crown lift up to 3.5 metres and reduce radial spread by up to 0.5 metres on one Holm Oak tree (T11)

2014: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.16 of 1976 to Crown reduce up to 2 metres to clear building one Holm Oak tree T1 of group G7, crown reduce radial spread by up to 2-3 metres one Holm Oak tree T2 of group G7 and remove two lowest branches of one Macrocarpa tree T3 of group G7.

2017: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 16 of 2003 to fell one Horse Chestnut Tree T7. Trim back by 2-3 metres Holm Oak of group G5.

2020: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.16 of 2003 to remove large overhanging stem/limb to the south from one Holm Oak tree of group G5.

2021: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.16 of 2003 to reduce radial spread to the north side by up to 2 to 3 metres Holm Oak trees of group G5.

2023: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.16 of 1976 to reduce radial spread to to south by up to 2 metres, one Monterey Cypress tree T1 of group G7.

Planning Assessment

The trees are three large tall Holm Oak of group G5 to the north, and a large mature Ash Holm Oak and Atlas Cedar that are growing in a border along the South side of the main entrance road. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views. The trees are:

Holm Oak T1 of group G5
This tree is to the eastern end of the group, and has three main stems that emerge from a common source. The south and central stems are the largest with the north stem being of smaller diameter and the remains of a lost stem on the northeast side. The stems are mostly clear to 8 metres and each begins to divide from 6 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread, lifted to the south, and wider spread to the north.

Holm Oak T2 of group G5
This tree has a single stem to 1 metre, then twin to 2 metres where three main stems develop. The stems each divide from 6 to 8 metres. There is a large secondary lateral that emerges from 2 metres on the southern side and arches outward. The main crown has a good shape and is dense and wide spread.

Holm Oak T3 of group G5
This tree has a single stem to 2.25 metres, then twin. The west stem mostly persists to and remains upright to 14 metres, the east stem arches over from 10 metres with most of its branches emerging at 4 metres along its horizontal section. The main crown is dense and wide spread.

The proposed works for all three trees are to reduce radial spread to the south by up to 2.5 metres and crown lift up to 6 metres. The works are to contain the spread of the trees, abate possible future nuisance and allow access beneath the crowns.

Ash T10
This is the largest and tallest tree of the application, located opposite block 5 to 8, close to the boundary with 126a Broadwater Street West. The tree has a large diameter single stem that divides into two in a strong “Y” shaped union from 2 metres, with each stem persisting to 6 to 8 metres before dividing again. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some lower hanging laterals.

Holm Oak T11
The Holm Oak T11 is the middle tree of the three individual trees, located north of the Electricity Sub Station close to the Ash tree T10. The tree has a large diameter leaning single stem that corrects at 3 metres, and mostly persists to the top. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended and lower hanging laterals.

Atlas Cedar T10
This tree is located at the Western end of the line, close to the south side of the junction of Lamorna Grove and Broadwater Street West. The tree has a single stem that is clear to 4 metres, and persists to within 3 to 4 metres of the dense flat top.

The proposed works for Atlas Cedar T10, Holm Oak T11, and Ash T12 are to crown lift up to 5.5 metres. The works are to allow access and more light and air to pass beneath the crowns.

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: 02/10/2023

Authorised by: PB Date: 2/10/23