Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 19/02/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/1615/24**
Address	**Honeywood Bramble Lane Worthing West Sussex BN13 3JE**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.14 of 1998 to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres Sycamore of group G3 and Sycamore T2, and to reduce crown height up to 1 metre Cherry tree T3.**

Date of site visit: 16/01/25

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to several large mature Sycamore trees: group G3 near the northeast corner of the rear garden, a multi-stemmed tree T2 near the Southeast corner of the front garden, and one Kazan Cherry Tree near the Southwest of the front garden. 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 crown height Sycamore trees of group G3 and Sycamore T2, and to Cherry tree T3.

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

1998: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 14 of 1998 confirmed on 18/08/98.

2010: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 14 of 1998 to prune longest side branches limbs by 2m, crown thin by 10% - 15% and remove dead wood over 25mm in diameter on individual Sycamore (T2) and on multi-stemmed Sycamore (Part of Group G3), remove one dead Elm in G3, and reduce side branches of Flowering Cherry (T3) by 2m to shape.

2017: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 14 of 1998 to prune to clear BT phone line by up to 30cms one Sycamore tree in Group G3 and Sycamore tree T2.

2020: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.14 of 1998 to reduce radial spread to north by up to 5 metres of Sycamore trees of group G3.

Planning Assessment

The trees are four large mature Sycamore growing in the front and rear gardens adjacent to Durrington Hill, and one smaller mature Cherry close to the boundary of the front garden with Bramble Lane. The trees are prominent to the area and are a part of the several groups and individual trees that line each side of Durrington Hill, and help to enhance its rural character.

The trees are:

Sycamore trees of group G3
Group G3 is near the northeast corner of the rear garden of the property adjacent to the pavement and carriageway of Durrington Hill. The group consists of three multi-stemmed trees growing in close proximity. The trees have 8 to 9 tall slender main stems that are mostly upright with the first of their long laterals emerging from 6 metres. The stems mostly divide from 7 to 8 metres, into tightly forked ascending secondaries. The main crown is combined dense and widespread with some over extended laterals, particularly to the northwest.

Sycamore tree T2
This tree is a mature Sycamore tree located near the Southeast corner of the front garden, close to the junction of Durrington Hill and Bramble Close. The tree has multiple tightly forked stems from ground level that each mostly persist to within 2 to 3 metres of the top. The first limbs emerge from 6 metres. The main crown is dense and widespread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works for the Sycamore trees of group G3 and Sycamore T2 are to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres. The works are to contain the size of the trees and allow more light to pass over the crown.

Kazan Cherry Tree T4
The Kazan Cherry tree T4 is located in the Southwest of the front garden close to the pavement of Bramble Lane. The tree has a single stem to 2 metres that persists to the top of the high low crown. Where the stems divide again. There are upright scaffold limbs and some significant sized secondary ascending limbs that emerge from metres.

The tree has a single central stem that persists to within 2 metres where it divides into 3 to 4 ascending main stems that each slightly arch outward and divide again from 3 metres. The main crown is dense and widespread.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height up to 1 metre to contain the size of the tree and allow more light and air to pass over 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:19/02/2025

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 20.02.2025