Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 03/01/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/1295/24**
Address	**83 Offington Avenue Worthing West Sussex BN14 9PR**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.20 of 2004 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1 to 2 metres to previous points, crown lift up to 3 to 5 metres, and crown thin 10 to 15% one Beech tree T1.**

Date of site visit: 18/12/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a medium to large sized mature Beech tree growing in the Northeast corner of the front garden of 83 Offington Avenue. The tree is prominent to the area and can be seen from many views.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread, crown lift, and crown thin.

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

2004: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 20 of 2004 confirmed on 26/01/2005.

2010: Application to crown lift to 5 metres, crown thin by 10% - 15%, reduce overall crown spread by up to 5 metres and reduce height by up to 1.5 metres on one Beech (T1) in the north-eastern corner front garden. Split Decision - Approved with Conditions. REFUSED = reduce overall crown spread by up to 5 metres and reduce height by up to 1.5 metres.

2014: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 20 of 2004 to crown thin up to 15% crown lift up to 5 metres, crown reduce radial spread by up to 2-2.5 metres and to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres on one Beech tree T1.

2016: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 20 of 2004 to crown thin up to 10 to 15% crown lift up to 5 metres, crown reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres and to reduce crown height by up to 2.5 metres one Beech tree T1.

2019: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.20 of 2004 to crown thin by 10-15%; crown lift up to 5m; reduce overall crown spread by up to 5m and reduce height by up to 2-5m of one Beech tree (T1).

2022: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 20 of 2004 to reduce crown height by up to 2 to 5 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 5 metres, crown lift up to 5 metres and crown thin up to 10-15% one Beech tree T1.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature tree growing in the northeast corner of the front garden, close to the busy section of road at the junction of Offington Avenue and Shirley Drive. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The Beech tree T1 is multi stemmed from ground level with several equal sized mostly ascending stems forming a broadly domed crown. The tree has some wider spreading large laterals that support the widest spread smaller diameter branches. There are several small areas of decay, in cavities and stumped ends. There is also some included bark within the crown of the tree. The main crown is mostly high, dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals, and some large lower epicormic growth.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1 to 2 metres to previous points, crown lift up to 3 to 5 metres, and crown thin 10 to 15%. The works are to maintain the size and spread of the tree, allow access beneath and allow more light and air to pass through the crown.

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 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: 03/01/2025

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 03/01/2025