Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 21/02/24**

Application Number	**AWDM/1755/23**
Address	**52 Woodlea Road Worthing West Sussex BN13 1BN**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.14 of 2006 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres, and crown lift to East to allow clearance to adjacent garage block roof of up to 2 to 3 metres, Sycamore trees of group G1.**

Date of site visit: 07/02/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a linear group of tall mature Sycamore located along the Eastern end of the rear garden. 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 and to crown lift to the East to allow clearance to the adjacent garage block roof.

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

2006: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 14 of 2006 confirmed on 15/11/2006.

2008: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 14 of 2006 to crown lift to 4 metres above ground level, crown thin by up to 10% and cleanout Sycamores (Group G1), and to cut back branches overhanging 52 Woodlea Road on one Silver Birch (within Group G2).

2008: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 14 of 2006 to fell one Sycamore (the westernmost specimen within Group G1). REFUSED.

Planning Assessment

The trees are part of a group of tall Sycamores growing along the Eastern boundary of the rear gardens of 52 and 52a Woodlea Road, adjacent to the garage block South of Parkfield Court. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The trees are five tall slender Sycamores, which include two single stemmed, two twin stemmed and one multi stemmed tree. The trees have stems that mostly persist to within 2 to 3 metres of the top, with a combined crown that extends throughout the group. The combined main crown is dense and wide spread with some over extended and lower hanging laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres, and crown lift to the East to allow clearance to adjacent garage block roofs of up to 2 to 3 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the trees and allow clearance to the adjacent garages.

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: 21/02/2024

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 21.02.2024