Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 05/12/23**

Application Number	**AWDM/1113/23**
Address	**37 Offington Lane Worthing West Sussex BN14 9RG**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.5 of 1989 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres and crown lift up to 4 metres, one Purple Beech tree T6.**

Date of site visit: 23/11/23

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a medium to large sized mature Purple Beech tree located near the northeast corner of the front garden. The tree is a part of the street scene and makes a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

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

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

1989: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 5 of 1989 confirmed on 26/01/1990.

1990: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 31 of 1990 confirmed on 07/12/1990.

2000: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 31/1990 to remove side branch of one Ash tree (T5); crown lift and reduce branches over highway, two Cherry trees (Group G5) and remove lowest branches to one Thuja tree.

2012: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 5 of 1989 to fell one Flowering cherry (G2) and replant with flowering cherry and to crown lift one Purple beech (T6) to 4 metres, reduce height to 10 metres and spread to 6 metres

Planning Assessment

The tree is a medium sized mature Purple Beech growing in the front garden adjacent to the boundary wall, and south of the driveway from Offington Lane. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree has a single stem to 2 metres where it then divides into three main scaffold stems. The central and Southeast stems are straight and upright, with the smaller stem to the North angle

outward and staggered. All three stems persist to 10 metres where they each begin to divide again. The first laterals emerge from 2.5 metres, and support most of the lower hanging tertiary branches. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some lower hanging laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres and crown lift up to 4 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow access and allow more light and air to pass beneath 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: 05/12/2023

Authorised by: PB Date: 5/12/23