Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 20/06/23**

Application Number	**AWDM/0519/23**
Address	**Land At North East Corner Of 53 Longlands Worthing West Sussex**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.47 of 2003 to reduce crown height by up to 3 to 4 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2 to 3 metres, and remove deadwood two Beech trees of group G2.**

Date of site visit: 25/04/23

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two large tall mature Beech trees located between the pavement of Longlands and the entrance to the former Electricity Substation, between 53 and 51 Longlands. The trees are part of a group of trees G2, which is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread, and remove deadwood two Beech trees.

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

2003: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 47 of 2003 confirmed on 02/03/2004.

2013: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 47 of 2003 to crown lift up to 3 metres Beech tree T1 of group G1, crown thin Beech tree T2 of group G1, reduce to a clearance of up to 2 metres of roofline Beech tree T3 of group G1 and to crown lift to give clearance of up to 2 metres one Beech tree T4 of group G2..

2017: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.47 of 2003 to reduce weight of southern stem by up to 50%, prune to allow 2 metres clearance to adjacent garage and crown thin 10% one Beech tree T2 of group G2, to prune to allow 2 metres clearance to adjacent garage Beech tree T3 of group G2 and to fell and replace one tree Beech tree T1 of group G1.

Planning Assessment

The trees are both large mature Beech growing in front of the disused Substation. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views. The trees are:

Beech tree T1 of group G2
This tree is the closest to the entrance of the Substation. The tree has a large diameter single stem to 18 metres, where it then divides into two large main scaffold stems. The higher section of the crown is to the south of the main trunk, and supported on a cluster of slender upright secondary stems. The first significant sized laterals emerge from 6 metres. The main crown is dense toward the top of the crown, slightly unbalanced and wide spread.

Beech tree T2 of group G2
The Beech tree T2 is slightly further north closer to the pavement of Longlands. The tree has a slightly smaller diameter single stem than T1, that persists to within 2 to 3 metres of the bushy top. The first limbs are higher emerging at 10 metres. The main crown is dense and less wide spread.

The proposed works for both trees are to reduce crown height by up to 3 to 4 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2 to 3 metres, and remove deadwood. The works are to contain the size and spread of the trees, and for general maintenance and safety.

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: 20/06/2023

Authorised by: PB Date: 20/6/23