Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 11/06/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0439/24**
Address	**The Beeches 1a Offington Gardens Worthing West Sussex BN14 9AT**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.4 of 1994 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2.5 metres and remove deadwood two Purple Beech trees T2 and T3.**

Date of site visit: 31/05/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two Purple Beech trees in the front and rear gardens along the northern boundary of 1a Offington Gardens. The trees are part of an established group, which are 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 and radial spread by up to 2.5 metres, and remove deadwood

The reasons for the works are primarily in the interests of abating nuisance, light issues and amenity value.

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1994: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 4 of 1994 confirmed on 06/09/1994.

2007: Application to crown lift 2 Purple Beech T2 and T3 to 5 metres above ground level, crown reduce T2 on east, south and west sides and reduce wayward branches by up to 1.5 metres and reduce branches to T3 on north, south, east and west by up to 1.5 metres

2013: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 4 of 1994 to Crown lift on North and Northeast side to a height of 8-9 metres one Beech tree T2, and to Crown lift to 6-7 metres one Beech tree T3.

2016: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.4 of 1994 to reduce radial spread by up to 2 to 3 metres, and reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, two Purple Beech trees T2 and T3.

Planning Assessment
The two trees have high public amenity value, being large trees that are highly visible in the area. Both trees are tall matures with wide crowns, which are prominent in the street scene and make a significant contribution to the character of the area.

The trees are:

Purple Beech T2
The Beech tree T2 is located in the rear garden. The tree is single stemmed to 3 metres, where it then divides into 4 to 5 large diameter main stems. These stems form a tight array, and each stem persists to the top of the crown. The main crown is dense, high and wide, with the heaviest foliage on the perimeter of the crown.

Purple Beech T3
This tree is located to the Northwest of the front garden. The tree is single stemmed to 3 metres, where it then divides into 3 to 4 large diameter main stems, that each divide several times toward the top of the crown. The main crown is dense, high and wide, with the most extended limbs being on the north side and overhanging No.3 Offington Gardens.

The proposed works for both trees are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2.5 metres and remove deadwood. The works are mainly to abate nuisance to adjacent buildings, maintain size and spread of the crowns and to maintain the proportions of the crowns.

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: 11/06/2024

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 11/06/2024