Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 26/09/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0978/24**
Address	**Grasmere Court Wordsworth Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 3JE**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.15 of 1996 to prune to allow up to 1 to 1.5 metre clearance to cables within crown one Horse Chestnut tree T2.**

Date of site visit: 14/08/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to one Horse Chestnut Tree in the front grounds of Grasmere Court Wordsworth Road. The tree is a part of an established group of trees, which are part of in the street scene and make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to prune to allow clearance to cables within the crown of Horse Chestnut tree T2.

The reasons for the works are primarily in the interests of safety and amenity value.

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1996: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 15 of 1996 confirmed on 17/12/1996.

2001: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 15/1996 to crown lift to 5 metres over the highway and 3 metres over footpath and clean out crowns to two Horse Chestnuts (T2 and T3) and remove lower branches on Horse Chestnut (T2) over the access.

2002: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order 15/1996 to crown lift to approximately 5 metres over Wordsworth Road to two Horse Chestnuts (T2 and T3).

2014: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.15 of 1996 to reduce limb over road by up to 3 metres on one Horse Chestnut tree T2, crown lift up to 3 – 3.5 metres one Horse Chestnut tree T3.

2018: Application under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No 15 of 1996 to remove lower branch overhanging bin shed, raise crown by 3.5metres and give more clearance over bin shed, Tree A (T2) of Horse Chestnut; Prune back by 1.5 metres to give additional 1.5m clearance to improve light to flats, Tree B (T1) of Horse Chestnut.

2021: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.15 of 1996 to reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres Horse Chestnut tree T3, and to reduce lowest limb to southeast by up to 2 metres one Horse Chestnut tree T2.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Horse Chestnut growing in the Southeast corner of the front grounds, adjacent to the public pavement and carriageway of Wordsworth Road, located between the access driveways to Grasmere Court and to the rear of properties in Rowlands Road. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

This is a fully mature tree with a large main stem that divides at 4 metres into two substantial stems, which then each divide again from 4.25 metres to 8 metres. The crown of the tree begins at 2 – 3 metres from ground level with the main largest limbs relatively high on the tree. The main crown is dense and very wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to prune to allow up to 1 to 1.5 metre clearance to cables within the crown. The works are to abate possible future nuisance, and alleviate potential for damage to either the tree or the adjacent cables.

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: 26/09/2024

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 26.09.2024