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

Application Number	**AWDM/0629/24**
Address	**The Vicarage Bramble Lane Worthing West Sussex BN13 3JE**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.24 of 2001 to reduce crown height by up to 3 metres, and reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres, Silver Birch tree T1, and to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres Silver Birch T5.**

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 two mature Silver Birch trees, T1 close to the centre of the Northern boundary of the front garden and T5 located near the southwest corner of the Vicarage, in the rear garden. The trees are a prominent part of the street scene and make a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce the crown height and radial spread of Silver Birch tree T1, and T5.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

2001: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 24 of 2001 confirmed on 08/05/01.

2016: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 24 of 2001 to reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres, and to crown lift up to 3.5 metres one tree Silver Birch tree T1.

2017: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 24 of 2001 to reduce radial spread by up to 1.5 to 2 metres, one Silver Birch tree T3

Planning Assessment

The trees are two large mature Silver Birch, T1 is growing in the front garden adjacent to the road and pavement of Bramble Lane, T5 is in the rear garden adjacent to the west boundary with 39 / 31 Bramble Lane. The two Silver Birch are both prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The trees are:

Silver Birch T1
This tree has a single stem that persists to within 2 to 3 metres of the top of the crown. There are several significant secondary stems from 2 metres, some of which form large separate spires. The tree is widest to the Eastern side. The main crown is dense and wide spread, mostly on smaller secondary branches.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 3 metres, and reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow more light and air to pass the crown.

Silver Birch T5
The Silver Birch tree T5 is an older taller tree that has a large slightly eastward leaning, single stem that extends to 4 metres. From 4 metres the stem divides into two, and the first significant sized limbs emerge. The two main stems mostly persist to the top of the crown, with the eastern stem being 2 metres taller. The tree has some heavy twisted growth at 5 to 6 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and maintain a clearance from the main building.

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: 26/09/2024

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 26.09.2024