Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 05/04/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0141/24**
Address	**98 Ripley Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 NH**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.14 of 1987 to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres and reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres, one Purple Sycamore tree T1.**

Date of site visit: 06/03/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a single Sycamore tree in the front garden of 98 Ripley Road, on the boundary with Tarring Road. The tree is a focal point in the area and is a part of an established number of trees, which are prominent in the street scene and make a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres and reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres, one Purple Sycamore tree T1.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1987: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 14 of 1987 confirmed on 26/04/1988.

1999: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 14/1987 to pollard or crown reduce height and spread of one Sycamore (T1)

2005: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 14/1987 to crown reduce by 50% one Sycamore tree (T1) Application Refused

2007: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 14 of 1987 to crown thin by up to 15% and crown lift to 6 metres one Sycamore tree (T1). **Split Decision - Approved with Conditions. *Split Decision – Refused: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 14 of 1987 to crown reduce by 15% one Sycamore tree (T1).

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.14 of 1987 to reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres and reduce crown height by up to 2 metres on one Purple Sycamore tree T1

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large early mature Sycamore growing in the north east corner of the front garden of 98 Ripley Road, close to its junction with Tarring Road. The tree is prominent in the street scene and can be seen from many views.

The tree has a conjoined stem from ground level with a strong union. The two main stems divide into two at 3 metres, and each divide again several times to the top of the crown. The crown is high and its stems are mostly upright with several secondary lateral branches that are wider spreading. The main crown is dense and wide spread.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres and reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow more light and air to pass around 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: 05/04/2024

Authorised by: Gary Peck Date: 5 April 2024