Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 11/12/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/1248/24**
Address	**Emmanuel United Reformed Church St Michaels Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 4SD**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.51 of 2002 to initiate a pollard at 5 to 6 metres one Indian Bean tree T4.**

Date of site visit: 03/10/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a large mature Indian bean tree (Catalpa bignonioides) located near the centre of the Northern boundary wall. The tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the Heene Conservation Area.

Consent is sought to initiate a pollard at 4 to 5 metres one Indian Bean tree T4.

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

1985: The property is included within Conservation Area VI (Heene), designated by the Council on 31st January 1985.

2002: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 51 of 2002 confirmed on 16/12/2002.

2003: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.51/2002 to crown lift to approximately 5 metres over highway and 3-4 metres over driveway to 3 Common Holly (Group G1), 1 Sycamore (T3), Indian Bean (T4) and 4 Rowan (T5, T6, T7 and T8).

2012: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.51 of 2002 to crown lift to 4m, south side, and reduce spread of lighter branches, south side, and crown lift to 5m north side and remove dead wood on one Indian bean tree (Catalpa bignonioides) (T4) at front of site adjacent to St. Michael's Road.

2012: Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to reduce to a uniform height of 1.8 metres, one group of Griselinia and Bay trees and to fell and replace 3 Sycamore and one Portuguese Laurel in the Heene Conservation Area.

2022: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.51 of 2001 to crown lift over pavement and carriageway up to 2.5 to 5.5 metres and reduce radial spread by 2 to 3 metres one Cherry Plum T1.

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Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Indian Bean tree growing in the front grounds in a small border between the low boundary wall and the front parking area. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree has a single stem that persists to 6 metres, with secondary stems and ascending laterals from 2.5 metres. Three to four main upright scaffold stems support the long and meandering branches. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to initiate a pollard at 5 to 6 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree.

These works in my opinion would be relatively large in relation to the overall size, spread and crown form of the tree. The tree which is relatively fast growing will have fully re-grown 2 to 3 seasons.

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:11/12/2024

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 11/12/2024