Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 23/09/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0887/24**
Address	**Whitworth House 24 St Botolphs Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 4JP**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.35 of 1995 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres, back to previous points, one Holm Oak tree of group G1**

Date of site visit: 17/07/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a single large Holm Oak tree in the southwest of the frontage of Whitworth House St Botolphs Road. The tree is part of group G1 which originally consisted of two Holm Oak trees. The tree is a part of the street scene and makes a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread back to previous points.

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

1995: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 35 of 1995 confirmed on 04/09/95.

2004: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No35 of 1995 to crown reduce one Holm Oak (within Group G1) and fell one dead Laburnum.

2009: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.35/1995 to reduce and thin canopy by up to 15% and crown lift to five metre maximum - 1 Holm Oak (G1) - front of property on southern boundary.

2012: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.35 of 1995 to reduce canopy by 20% of one Holm Oak in south-west corner of the site.

2016: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.35 of 1995 to reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres one Holm Oak tree of group G1.

2020: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 35 of 1995 to reduce height and lateral spread by up to 2m of one Holm Oak of group G1.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Holm Oak growing in the southwest of the front grounds of Whitworth House St Botolphs Road. The tree has an angled single stem that extends for 2 metres, to a height of 1 metre above ground level. The main stem is then divided into two stems each of which divide again at 2.25 metres. The main crown has a tight array of scaffold stems with numerous smaller secondary lateral branches that form the widest parts of the tree. There are some cavities and areas of decay on the lower stem.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres, back to previous points. The works are to clear the main building, balance the crown and maintain the size and spread of the tree.

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: 23/09/2024

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 25.09.2024