Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 10/08/23**

Application Number	**AWDM/0825/23**
Address	**1 Hawthorn Gardens Worthing West Sussex BN14 9LS**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.51 of 2003 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1 metre and crown lift up to 3 metres, one Silver Birch tree T1 and to remove selected limb to south, and reduce selected limb to southwest by 2 metres one Ash tree T3.**

Date of site visit: 29/06/23

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two medium sized early mature trees: a Silver Birch T1 located in the Northeast corner of the grounds between the Upper Brighton Road and the garage compound and an Ash tree, T3 growing to the southwest part of the grounds of Hawthorn Close, near to car parking areas and adjacent to the boundary fence of 41 Hawthorn Road. The trees are a prominent part of the street scene and make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread and crown lift one Silver Birch tree T1 and to remove selected limb to south, and reduce selected limb to southwest one Ash tree T3

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

2003: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 51 of 2003 confirmed on 02/03/2004.

2007: Application under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 51 of 2003 to crown reduce by up to one metre on south side over No. 41 Hawthorn Road and crown thin by 10 - 15% one Ash tree (T3).

2014: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.51 of 2003 to initiate pollard point at 6 metres, and carry out associated works to one Ash tree T3.

Planning Assessment

The trees are medium to large early matures growing in the communal grassed areas that surround the complex of flats, Hawthorn Close. The trees are prominent to the area and can be seen from many views including Hawthorn Close, Hawthorn Road and The Upper Brighton Road. The trees are:

Silver Birch T1
This tree has a single stem to 1.5 metres, where it then divides into two, the south stem persists to 5.5 metres, with several mostly upright laterals and stems from 2 metres, the north stem divides from 3 metres and remains mostly clear to 4 metres. The main crown is dense, wide spread with some over extended laterals and low hanging on the tertiary branches.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1 metre and crown lift up to 3 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree, and allow access beneath the crown.

Ash T3
The Ash tree T3 has three relatively slender stems that emerge from a common source 0.5 metres above ground level. The stems divide at 6-7 metres and are mostly clear to 6 metres. The top half of the crown is bushy with multiple thin secondary stems. The tree has several low hanging secondary limbs that are intertwined with the tall basal growths. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to remove a selected limb to south, and reduce one selected limb to southwest by up 2 metres. The works are to contain the spread of the tree and allow clearance and more light and air beneath the crown.

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: 10/08/2023

Authorised by: PB Date: 10/8/23