Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 29/08/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0859/24**
Address	**Weald House 2 Links Road Worthing West Sussex BN14 9RA**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.25 of 1990 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres two Western Red Cedars T3 and T4, reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres two Cherry plums of group G7, and to reduce radial spread by up to 3 metres, crown lift up to 4 metres, and crown thin up to 20% Beech Walnut Cypress Pine Robinia and Silver Birch trees of group G4.**

Date of site visit: 27/08/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two large mature Western Red Cedars and a group of various species of mostly medium to large mature trees (of group G4) in the front garden, and two smaller mature Chery Plums in the rear garden. 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 two Western Red Cedars T3 and T4, two Cherry plums of group G7, and to reduce radial spread, crown lift, and crown thin Beech Walnut Cypress Pine Robinia and Silver Birch trees of group G4.

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

1990: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 25 of 1990 confirmed on 18/03/1991

2000: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 15 of 2000 confirmed on 05/01/2001.

2011: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 15 of 2000 to fell and replant, or to reshape and reduce by 30%, one Western Red Cedar, T1, on east side of property within front garden. Refused.

2016: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.15 of 2000 to reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres, retaining suitable foliage cover, crown lift up to 4 metres, and remove dead wood from two Western Red Cedar trees T1 and T2, and to crown thin up to 15% and reduce height and spread by up to 2 to 2.5 metres one Cherry Plum of group G4.

Planning Assessment

The trees are two large mature Western Red Cedars to the South of the front garden, and a linear group of various trees including Walnut Cypress Pine Robinia and Silver Birch and Beech trees (group G4). growing along the Eastern boundary and that extends on to the grass verge adjacent to the junction of Links Road and Warren Farm Place. In the rear garden are two mature Cherry Pums, close to the rear of the main building. The trees are all visible from the road and contribute to the sylvan character of the area.

The trees are:

T3 Western Red Cedar
This tree is in the front garden directly opposite the main building that was built with the tree already well established. tree is single stemmed to 3 metres where it then divides into two main stems that each persist to the top of the crown. The lower section has clear stems to 3 to 3.5 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread with deep foliage. A large secondary stem or ascending lateral was recently removed at 2.5 metres on the Southside.

T4 Western Red Cedar
The Western Red Cedar T4 is inline with T3, and adjacent to the southern boundary fencing/wall. This tree has two main stems from ground level, the southern stem persisting to the top of the tree, the north stem dividing at 4 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals. Both trees are close to the main building.

The proposed works for both trees are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres, retaining suitable foliage cover, crown lift up to 4 metres, and remove dead wood. The works are to allow clearance to the building and allow more light and access beneath their crowns.

Cherry Plum T1 of G7
This is one of two smaller younger trees growing in the rear centre of the rear garden. The tree T1 is twin stemmed from ground level, with each of the slender stems persisting to within 2 to 3 metres of the top. The first laterals emerge from 3 metres.The main crown is dense and wide spread with some areas of damage.

Cherry Plum T2 of G7
The Cherry Plum tree T2 of G7 is located 3 metres north of T1 and has a single stem to 2 metres where it then divides into two slender stems that each mostly persist to the top. The crown breaks from 4 metres, where the first laterals emerge. The main crown is dense with a rather unruly shape with no central leader, and several separate spires, supported on a slender stem that has some long cavities and damaged wood..

The proposed works for both trees are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the trees, and reduce weight in their crowns.

Trees of Group G4
This group of trees extends along and past the Eastern boundary of the front garden and consists of several trees the largest being the Beech to the Southern end, and the smallest is a slender stemmed mature Silver Birch that also has the most deadwood. The trees have a combined crown that is dense and wide spread.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread up to a maximum of 3 metres, crown lift up to 4 metres, and crown thin up to 20%. The works are to contain the size and spread of the trees, allow access beneath and allow more light and air to pass through 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: 29/08/2024

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 29/08/2024