**Development Management – Delegated Officer Report** **Date: 26/10/23**

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| **Application Number** | **AWDM/1177/23** |
| **Address** | **11 Parkfield Road Worthing West Sussex BN13 1EN** |
| **Proposal** | **Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.8 of 2004 to reduce radial spread by up to 1 metre, crown lift up to 4 metres, and remove deadwood one Sweet Chestnut tree T10.** |

**Date of site visit:** 25/10/23

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

**Proposal, Site and Surroundings**

The application refers to a large mature Sweet Chestnut tree located to the West of the northern boundary adjacent to the entrance driveway. The tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce radial spread, crown lift and remove deadwood.

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**

2004: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 8 of 2004 confirmed on 10/01/2005.

2005: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order 8/2004 to crown lift to 5 metres above ground level and to clean out one Holly and one Sweet Chestnut tree (T8 and T9).

2010: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8 of 2004 to remove the two lowest boughs, to crown lift to 5 metres and crown clean the canopy of one Sweet Chestnut (T10).

2010: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8 of 2004 to crown lift to 5 metres one Purple Norway Maple (T11) in rear garden.

2013: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.8 of 2004 to crown lift up to 3 metres, crown reduce in height and radial spread by up to 1 metre one Purple Beech tree (T13); crown lift up to 3 metres, crown reduce radial spread of lower crown by up to 2 metres one Sweet Chestnut tree (T12); crown lift up to 3 metres, crown reduce in height and radial spread by up to 1 metre one Hornbeam tree (of group G5); crown lift up to 3 metres, and removal of selected large lower branches on southeast of crown on one Sweet Chestnut tree (of group G5).

2017: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8 of 2004 to reduce radial spread by 1 metre, raise canopy to 4.5 metres and remove dead wood to one Purple Leaved Maple tree T11.

**Planning Assessment**

The tree is a large mature Sweet Chestnut growing in the front garden adjacent to the pavement of Parkfield Road. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree has a large diameter single stem to 10 metres, where it then divides into several smaller mostly upright slender stems, some of which are stag headed. The first laterals emerge from 2 metres and are near horizontal and somewhat over extended, and overladen with foliage. The main crown is dense from the base becoming slightly more sparse to the top and wide spread with over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread by up to 1 metre, crown lift up to 4 metres, and remove deadwood. The works are to contain the spread of the tree, allow access beneath the crown and for general maintenance.

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: 26/10/2023

Authorised by: Gary Peck Date: 26 October 2023