Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 09/12/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/1128/24**
Address	**2 Hillside Avenue Worthing West Sussex BN14 9QR**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.32 of 2002 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres and crown lift up to 5 metres, one Sycamore tree T3.**

Date of site visit: 30/10/24

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 Sycamore located near the centre of the Southern boundary of the front garden. The tree is a prominent 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 and crown lift up.

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

2002: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 32 of 2002 confirmed on 03/04/2002.

2003: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 32 of 2002 to crown reduce by 40% one Beech, one Norway Maple and one Sycamore (T1, T2, and T3) REFUSED.

2005: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation order No. 32 of 2002 to crown reduce by one-third, crown thin by 20% and crown lift to 5 metres one Beech (T1) and one Norway Maple (T2)

2006: Application for consent under the Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 32 of 2002 to crown lift to 6 metres, crown thin by 20% and remove dead wood of one Sycamore (T3).

2017: Unauthorised works to TPO trees Planning Enforcement Investigation Completed.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Sycamore growing in a raised planter within a border of plants between the roadside and the front garden fence line. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The Sycamore tree T3 has a single stem to 2.25 metres, where it then divides into two upright stems that each persist to 10 to 12 metres, where previously reduced. The first significant sized secondary limbs emerge from 4 metres, with some large epicormic growth lower on the stem. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres and crown lift up to 5 metres, one Sycamore tree T3. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and to allow access beneath the crown.

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:09/12/2024

Authorised by: Date: