Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 14/12/23**

Application Number	**AWDM/1425/23**
Address	**73 Southwick Street Southwick West Sussex BN42 4TL**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.162/3/76 (SW) of 1976 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1 metre and crown thin up to 10 to 15% one Pine tree T1 and to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1 metre and remove deadwood Pine tree T2.**

Date of site visit: 20/10/23

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two large mature Pine trees located on the Northern boundary of the front and side gardens, adjacent to the pavement of Roman Crescent. The trees are a prominent part of the street scene and make a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the Southwick Conservation Area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread and crown thin one Pine tree T1 and to reduce crown height and radial spread and remove deadwood Pine tree T2

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

1976: Adur Tree Preservation order Number 162/3/76 (SW) of 1976 confirmed on 23/02/1977.

1976: The Southwick Conservation Area was first designated in June 1976 and included three distinct and separate areas ‘The Green and Church Lane’ area covered all buildings surrounding The Green and including the buildings on the corners of Cross Road, Roman Crescent, Southdown Road, Southwick Square, The Twitten, Watling Road, Victoria Road/Park Lane, Albert Road and Oldfield Crescent.

2016: Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to crown lift up to 3 to 6 metres, remove epicormic growth and reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres, one Lime tree in the Southwick Conservation Area.

2023: Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres Beech T3 and Sycamore T4, to reduce to a height of 2 to 2.5 metres Pittosporum trees T6 and T7, and to fell one Purple Leaved Plum tree T5 in the Southwick Conservation Area.

Planning Assessment

The trees are two tall large mature Pines growing in the side garden close to the junction of Southwick Street and Roman Crescent. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views. The trees are:

Pine T1
This tree is the furthest East of the two, and has a slender single stem that persists to 9.5 metres, where the first laterals emerge and the stem angles over to near horizontal for 2 metres where it then divides into several laterals that form a flat top to the crown. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended lower hanging laterals to the south.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1 metre and crown thin up to 10 to 15%. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow more light and air to pass through the crown.

Pine T2
The Pine tree T2 has a slightly leaning single stem that has a “Dog leg” at 6 metres and is clear 10 metres. At 12 metres the main stem divides into several laterals which form the wide flat crown. The main crown is dense and wide spread.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1 metre and remove deadwood. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree, 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 trees and would not significantly or adversely affect their appearance, amenity value, or contribution to the character of the Southwick Conservation 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: 14/12/2023

Authorised by: PB Date: 14/12/23