Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 05/04/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0138/24**
Address	**45 Hurston Close Worthing West Sussex BN14 0AX**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.3 of 1996 to fell and replace one Norway Maple T9.**

Date of site visit: 31/01/24

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 Norway Maple located near the northwest corner of the rear garden. The tree is part of a large group that 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 fell and replace the tree.

The reasons for the works are primarily in the interests of safety and amenity value.

Consultations: None.

Representations: One representation from a nearby neighbour in support of the proposed works.

Relevant Planning History

1996: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 3 of 1996 confirmed on 14/11/1996.

2008: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 3/1996 to crown reduce by 30% - 35% and remove selective side branches to one Norway Maple (T9).

2021: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.3 of 1996 to reduce height back to sound wood and reduce spread by 2 - 3 metres one Norway Maple tree T9. (Amended Description)

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Acer growing in the rear garden close to its north east corner, adjacent to the boundaries with 11 Fontwell Close and 44 Hurston Close. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The Maple tree T9 has a large diameter single stem to 2.5 metres, where it then divides into several tightly forked upright stems. The first significant laterals emerge from 4 metres. The tree was last reduced at 14 metres due to concerns of decay. The resulting regrowth is slender, upright and vigorous. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to fell and replace the tree due to deteriorating condition. The tree was last reduced “to sound wood” and it would appear that the decay has continued despite this work. The base of the tree shows signs of mycelium beneath the bark and has several areas of damage and decay, including some hollowing.

These works in my opinion will be large in relation to the overall number of trees and a significant amount of change will take place. However the effect on the area will be compensated with the provision of a replacement tree.

Recommendation

APPROVE

Grant Consent, subject to the following Conditions:

1. Approved plans

2. The proposed felling of the NorwayT9 and its replacement shall be carried out in full within two years from the date of this consent and in accordance with details of the size, species and position of the replacement tree planting to be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

   Reason: *In the interest of visual amenity.*

3. If within five years following replanting, any of the replacement tree dies or becomes seriously diseased, another tree of the same size and species shall be planted in a similar position during the next planting season following the removal of the replacement tree, unless the Local Planning Authority gives written approval to any variation.

   Reason: *In the interest of visual amenity.*

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation?

No

Case Officer: JDS Date: 05/04/2024

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 05/04/2024