Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date: 15/08/23**

Application Number	**AWDM/0827/23**
Address	**15 Second Avenue Worthing West Sussex BN11 3QP**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.36 of 2003 to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 3 metres, and lift up to 4 metres Silver Birch T6, reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres, and lift up to 4 metres Silver Birch T8, and to reduce crown height by up to 3 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 4 metres, and lift up to 4 metres one Atlas Cedar T9, Beech T7 and Purple Beech T10.**

Date of site visit: 14/08/23

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to five large mature trees, two located close to Second Avenue, and three near the northern boundary. The trees are a prominent part of the street scene and make a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread, and crown lift two Silver Birch T6 and T8, two Beech T7 and T10 and one Atlas Cedar T9.

The reasons for the works are primarily in the interests of safety, abating nuisance, light issues and amenity value.

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

2003: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 36 of 2003 confirmed on 27/11/2003.

2017: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.36 of 2003 to fell and replace one Blue Atlas Cedar T9 and one Beech tree T10.

Planning Assessment

The area around Second Avenue is characterised by mature trees, in private gardens, on the pavement and within the Open space Charmandean Recreation Ground. The trees are five large mature trees growing in the front and rear gardens, where they can be seen both from the road, the adjacent public park. The trees are;

Silver Birch T6

This tree is located in the northeast corner of the rear garden, where it is adjacent to the boundary with 11 Third Avenue, but is still visible from Charmandean Recreation Ground. The tree has a single stem to 6 metres where it divides into two: a slender central stem upright stem and a larger angled outward to the south stem that corrects at 7 metres. Both stems divide again at 12 metres and several more times to the slightly bushy top. from being that persists to the top of the high low crown. Where the stems divide again. The main crown is dense and wide spread.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 3 metres, and lift up to 4 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow access beneath the crown.

Beech T7

The Beech tree T7 is located close to the boundary with Charmandean Recreation Ground, and has 50% of its crown in the adjacent Park. The tree has a large diameter single stem to 4 metres, where it then divides into two, with two equally large secondary that emerge from 1.8 metres to the west and 2.25 metres to the east. The resulting four main scaffold limbs mostly persist to within 2 to 3 metres of the top. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some low hanging laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 3 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 4 metres, and lift up to 4 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow access beneath the crown.

Silver Birch T8

This tree is located slightly further south than T6 and T7 to the northwest of the main building. The tree has a single stem to 4 metres, where it then divides into two, the southern stem divides again at 5 metres into a cluster of smaller upright stems, with the northern stem mostly persisting to 8 metres where all larger stems were originally reduced. The resulting stems mostly persist to within 2 to 3 metres of the top. The main crown is dense, crowded with stems and wider spread.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres, and lift up to 4 metres Silver Birch T8, to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow access beneath the crown.

Atlas Cedar T9

This is the most prominent of the trees of Worthing Tree Preservation Order number 36 of 2003. The tree has a central single stem that persists to the top of the high low crown, with the first significant laterals emerging at 3 metres. The scaffold limbs are a combination of wider spreading lateral limbs on the lower section of the crown becoming more upright and ascending higher in the crown. The tree is a good specimen with a well balanced crown that has not been suppressed or distorted by the adjacent Beech tree.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 3 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 4 metres, and lift up to 4 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree, abate possible future nuisance and allow access and more light and air to pass beneath the crown.

Beech tree T10

The Beech tree is growing closer to the road with the Atlas Cedar to its Northwest side. The tree has twin stems from ground level that are tightly forked, and seperate at 1 metre. Both stems mostly persist to the top of the crown, with each stem having equal height secondary stems. The main crown is slightly suppressed by the evergreen Cedar, and has a partial over-balance to the southeast.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 3 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 4 metres, and lift up to 4 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree, abate

possible future nuisance and allow access and more light and air to pass beneath and around the crown.

Some of the works appear to be slightly overestimated and have been amended by conditions.

The amended 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;

   i Sliver Birch T6 - Reduce crown height 2 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2 to 3 metres, 3 metres on the longest most protruding limbs and crown lift up to 4 metres.

   ii Beech T7 - Reduce crown height 2 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2 to 3 metres, 3 metres on the longest most protruding limbs and crown lift up to 4 metres.

   iii Silver Birch T8 - Reduce crown height up to 3 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2 to 3 metres, 3 metres on the longest most protruding limbs and crown lift up to 4 metres.

   iv Atlas Cedar T9 - Reduce crown height up to 2 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 3 to 4 metres, 4 metres on the longest most protruding limbs and crown lift up to 4 metres.

   v Purple Beech T10 - Reduce crown height 2 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 3 to 4 metres, 4 metres on the longest most protruding limbs and crown lift up to 4 metres.

   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: 15/08/2023

Authorised by: Gary Peck Date: 15 August 2023