**Development Management – Delegated Officer Report** **Date: 11/08/23**

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| **Application Number** | **AWDM/0829/23** |
| **Address** | **Runnymede 16 Links Road Worthing West Sussex BN14 9QY** |
| **Proposal** | **Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.23 of 1990 to reduce crown height by up to 3 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 4 metres and crown lift up to 4 metres, one Purple Beech tree T11 and one Ash, one Cherry, two Cypress and two Acers of group G8.** |

**Date of site visit:** 09/08/23

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

**Proposal, Site and Surroundings**

The application refers to a linear group of tall mature trees located on the western boundary of the rear garden. The trees are a prominent part of the local landscape and make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread and to crown lift, one Purple Beech tree T11 and one Ash, one Cherry, two Cypress and two Acers of group G8.

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

**Consultations:** Letter sent to the Development Manager of the South Downs National Park, who replied “No comment”.

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

**Relevant Planning History**

1990: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 23 of 1990 confirmed on 18/03/1991.

1991: Application to fell 1 Sycamore and 3 Pine trees subject to Worthing Tree Preservation Order 23 of 1990.

**Planning Assessment**

The Beech T11 and Ash, Cherry, Sycamore Norway Maple and two Cypress of group G8 are large tall mature trees growing on the boundary with properties in Hurston Close on the western side of the rear garden. Although close to the South Downs National Park, the trees are not readily visible from Links Road, to the east of which the boundary begins. The trees are part of the area, which despite their height have limited public views, being partially visible as a backdrop to properties in Hurston Close.

The single Beech tree T11 and the six trees of group G8 are growing as part of a dense tightly packed linear group that is interspersed with equally tall trees that are not part of Worthing Tree Preservation Order 23 of 1990. This group extends from the southeast corner of the property, encompassing trees that are part of Area A1 and groups G8 and G7 to the northwest corner adjacent to the neighbouring property of Highdown Links Road.

The oldest tree is the Ash of group G8, which also has the widest spread, with most of the trees being a similar height. The combined crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 3 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 4 metres and crown lift up to 4 metres, one Purple Beech tree T11 and one Ash, one Cherry, two Cypress and two Acers of group G8.

The works are to contain the size and spread of the trees and allow access beneath their crowns. The works appear to have been overestimated and have been changed by conditions.

These 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 to the Purple Beech tree T11 and one Ash, one Cherry, two Cypress and two Acers of group G8, hereby permitted, shall be restricted to;

   **i** Reduction in crown height of up to 2 to 3 metres.

   **ii** Reduction in radial spread of of up to 2 to 4 metres, 4 metres on the longest most protruding limbs, and 2 to 3 metres on all others limbs.

   **iii** Crown lifting of 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: 11/08/2023

Authorised by: Gary Peck Date: 11/08/2023