Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 20/12/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/1232/24**
Address	**9 Cherry Tree Close Worthing West Sussex BN13 3QJ**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.91 of 2001 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2.5 metres Norway Maple T5; reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres Beech T6; to reduce crown height by up to 3 metres, reduce radial spread to East and West by up to 2 metres Beech trees of group G2; and to reduce crown height by up to 1 metre, and reduce radial spread by up to 1.5 metres, four Silver Birch trees of group G1.**

Date of site visit: 18/12/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two large individual trees, one Beech T6 one Norway Maple T5, a line of smaller Beech trees to the east of group G2, and four younger Birch trees located either side of the western garden fence of group G1. The trees are all visible from the road with varying levels of prominence, are all part of the street scene and make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread Norway Maple T5, Beech T6, Beech trees of group G2 and to four Silver Birch trees of group G1

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1985: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 4 of 1985 confirmed on 09/07/1985.

1998: Application for tree surgery to four Beech trees and one Sycamore tree subject to Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 4/1985.

2001: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 91 of 2001 confirmed on 18/02/2002.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 91 of 2001 to radial reduce up to 3.5m, reduce height by up to 2.5m and crown thin by 15% one Beech tree (T6); radial reduce up to 2.5m, reduce height by up to 2.5m and crown thin up to 15% one Sycamore tree (T5); fell to ground level Birch tree (B1) part of Group G1 and radial reduction up to 0.5m one Himalayan Birch tree (B2) part of Group G2.

Planning Assessment

The trees are all tall but of varying size and ages, located in and around the rear garden. The largest trees are the two individuals T5 and T6, all of the trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views. The trees are:

Norway Maple T5
This tree is located on the northern boundary with 8 Cherry Tree Close, to the northeast of the main building. The tree has a large diameter single stem to 3 metres, where it then divides into 3 main stems that are twisted and partially fused, becoming completely separate at 5 to 7 metres. The stems mostly persist and have some wider spread secondary branches. 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 2.5 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree.

Beech T6
The Beech tree T6 is the tallest and largest tree of the proposal. The tree has a large diameter single stem to 4 metres where it then divides into 4 to 5 large upright stems that each persist to 6 to 8 metres before dividing again and several more times to the top of the tree. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some over extended laterals, toward the southwest, close to the main building.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow more light and air to pass the crown.

Beech trees of group G2
Group G2 forms a linear group of mostly slender Beech trees that run from the Southeast of the rear garden of 9 Cherry Tree Close, to the Northeast corner of the rear garden of 11 Cherry Tree Close, where it borders with properties in Palmers Way. The trees within the rear garden of No.9 have slender stems, that each persist to the top with interwoven crowns that form a tall screen. The main stems have branches from ground level, becoming very wide spread from 2 to 3 metres. The combined crown is dense and wide spread with many overextended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 3 metres, reduce radial spread to East and West by up to 2 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the trees and to reduce the sail effect of the combined crown.

Himalayan Birch of G1
This tree is located on a small verge adjacent to the public pavement and the driveway from Cherry tree Close. It is part of group G1, but is separated from the other 3 trees by the rear garden wall and hedge. The tree has a single stem to 1 metre, where it then divides into several tightly forked upright slender stems that mostly persist to the top of the high crown. Some of the outer stems and ascending braches lean outward making the dense crown wider spread.

Silver Birch trees x3 of group G1
The Silver Birch trees of G1 are located within the rear garden, between the main building and the garden wall. The trees are the smallest and youngest of the application. The trees each have slender stems: two that mostly persist to the top and one that divides into two from 3.5 metres. The main crowns are mostly compact and moderately dense.

The proposed works for all four Birch trees are to reduce crown height by up to 1 metre, and reduce radial spread by up to 1.5 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the trees and maintain the clearance from the adjacent buildings.

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 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:20/12/2024

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 20.12.2024