Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 26/07/23**

Application Number	**AWDM/0849/23**
Address	**19 Offington Lane Worthing West Sussex BN14 9RH**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.30 of 1990 to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 4 metres, crown thin 15% and remove to suitable point Southwestern stem, one Holm Oak tree of group G3.**

Date of site visit: 27/06/23

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 Holm Oak located on the southern boundary of the front garden, close to footpath access from Offington Lane to Guardian Court. The tree 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 reduce crown height and radial spread, crown thin and remove to a suitable point the Southwestern stem.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None.

Relevant Planning History

1990: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 30 of 1990 confirmed on 14/01/1991.

2004: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 30/1990 to crown lift/ reduce Purple Beech (G3) on southern side to give a clearance of up to 2 metres to No.17 Offington Lane.

2017: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.30 of 1990 to crown lift up to 5 metres, crown thin 15% and reduce southern stem at 4 metres one Holm Oak tree T1 of group G3, and to prune to allow clearance of roof and building of up to 2 metres one Beech tree T2 of group G3.

2020: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.30 of 1990 to prune to allow clearance to building of up to 1.5 metre 1 Beech tree and reduce radial spread by up to 1.5 metres and crown lift up to 5.5 metres 1 Holm Oak tree, both of group G3.

2023: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.30 of 1990 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres one Purple Beech tree of G3 and to fell and replace one Holm Oak tree of group G3. Split Decision: Refused Felling of Holm Oak.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Holm Oak growing near the centre of the southern boundary of the front garden. Offington Lane is a main route way off of the A27 into Worthing, and the trees are part of a number of tall mature trees that sporadically line both sides of the entire road, as a mix of privately owned TPO trees and very tall Street Trees.

The Holm Oak is the tree closest to the road and footpath of Offington Lane. The tree is multi-stemmed from ground level, with three main partially fused stems. Two of the stems divide at 2 metres and again at 3 -4 metres. The main crown is dense, wide spread and has some lower hanging over arched secondary stems.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 4 metres, crown thin 15% and remove to suitable point Southwestern stem. These works are to alleviate concerns regarding the overall size and weight of the tree, and the lower stems expansion into the adjacent access way.

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: 26/07/2023

Authorised by: PB Date: 26/7/23