Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 05/09/23**

Application Number	**AWDM/0981/23**
Address	**1 Chaucer Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 4PB**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.6 of 1993 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres one Purple Beech tree T1.**

Date of site visit: 14/08/23

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a single Purple Beech tree in the rear garden of 1 Chaucer Road. The tree is part of an established number of trees, which are part of the street scene and make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the Shakespeare Road Conservation Area.

Consent is sought to reduce the radial spread of the crown and to reduce crown height.

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

Consultations: Letter sent to the Worthing Society, who did not respond.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1989: The property is included within the Shakespeare Road Conservation Area X designated by the Council on 25th April 1989.

1993: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 6 of 1993 confirmed on 30/03/93.

1996: Application for works to one Purple Beech (T1) comprising: cut back to trunk two overhanging branches, remove epicormic growth up to a height of 3 metres back end by one metre extremities encroaching over 27/29 Shakespeare Road and remove dead wood : 1 Chaucer Road.

2000: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 6/1993 to crown lift one Purple Beech (T1) on northern side over corner of property to give a clearance of two metres to the roof

2002: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No, 6/1993 to crown lift five lower limbs of Copper Beech tree overhanging adjoining property, 27 Shakespeare Road

2015: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.6 of 1993 to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, reduce radial spread of crown by up to 4 metres on East side and

reduce radial spread of crown by up to 2 metres on all other aspects, one Purple Beech tree T1.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Purple Beech growing in the Northeast corner of the rear garden of 1 Chaucer Road, where it is visible from both Chaucer Road and from Shakespeare Road to the east, as a backdrop to the surrounding houses. The tree is prominent to the area, and contributes positively to the character of the Shakespeare Road Conservation Area.

The tree has a stout single stem to 6 metres, where it divides, with three to four large diameter stems that each divide again at 7-8 metres into a mass of smaller stems and lateral limbs. The central more upright stems are of a larger diameter than the outer branches. The main crown has several distorted areas of growth with many twisted and gnarled branches. The crown is dense with minimal light penetrating through the dark leaves. The wide spreading limbs are mostly smaller secondary branches, which also form most of the lower hanging parts of the crown.

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 around the crown. The works appear to be slightly over estimated 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 tree and would not significantly or adversely affect its appearance, amenity value, or its contribution to the character of the Shakespeare Road Conservation Area.

Recommendation

APPROVE

Grant Consent, subject to the following Conditions:

1. Approved plans

2. The proposed works, hereby permitted, shall be restricted to;

   i Reduction in crown height of up to 2 metres

   ii Reduction in radial spread of up to 2 to 3 metres, 3 metres on the longest most protruding limbs

   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: 05/09/2023

Authorised by: PB Date: 5/9/23