Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 14/03/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/1476/24**
Address	**42 Longlands Worthing West Sussex BN14 9NN**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.46 of 2003 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres Beech tree T1 and T2 of group G4 and to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres, and crown thin up to 15% Beech tree T3 of group G4**

Date of site visit: 06/03/25

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to three large mature Beech trees: two in the rear garden of 42 Longlands and one in the rear garden of 40 Longlands. The trees are a prominent 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 Beech tree T1 and T2 and to reduce crown height and radial spread, and crown thin Beech tree T3.

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

Consultations: Letter sent to The SDNP Development Manager, who responded: No comment.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

2003: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 46 of 2003 confirmed on 29/01/2004.

2016: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.46 of 2003 to reduce radial spread and crown height by up to 4 to 5 metres, crown thin up to 25% one Beech tree of group G4 and to reduce radial spread and crown height by up to 3 metres, crown thin up to 25% one Beech tree of group G4.

Planning Assessment

The trees are large sized matures growing in the rear garden of the property adjacent to Hill Barn Golf Course. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

<u>Beech tree T1 of group G4</u>
This tree is located near to the centre of the rear garden of 42 Longlands. The tree is slightly smaller than T2, and has a single main stem that is clear to 6 metres, where the first lateral limbs emerge. The main stem persists to 10 metres, where it then divides into several small upright stems. The main crown is dense and wide spread.

Beech tree T2 of group G4
The Beech tree T2 is located further north of T1 adjacent to the boundary fence with the access roadway of the Golf Course. The tree has a slightly more slender stem that persists to 18 metres, where it begins to divide. The first limbs emerge from 8 metres. The main crown is more compact than T1, dense with some protruding laterals.

The proposed works for both trees are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the trees and allow more light and air to pass the crown.

Beech tree T3 of group G4
This tree is also part of group G4, but located near the Southeast of the rear garden of number 40 Longlands. The tree has a straight single main stem that is clear to 8 metres, where the first lateral limbs emerge, and divides into three at 10 metres with a central stem remaining. The main crown is dense and has no central leader, with a cluster of smaller limbs forming the top of the canopy.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres, and crown thin up to 15%. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow more light and air to pass through the crown.

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: 14/03/2025

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 14/03/2025