Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 31/01/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/1321/24**
Address	**2 Offington Drive Worthing West Sussex BN14 9PN**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.64 of 1997 to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, and reduce radial spread by up to 1 to 3 metres, one Purple Beech T11 and one Purple Beech tree of group G1.**

Date of site visit: 29/01/25

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to 2 Beech trees which are in the Northwest and Southwest of the front garden. The trees are part of a group of trees, which are part of the street scene and make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce height and radial spread of both trees.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1994: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 22 of 1994 confirmed on 09/12/1994.

1997: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 64 of 1997 confirmed on 04/11/97.

2003: Application for consent Under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 22/1994 to crown lift on eastern and southern sides up to five metres above ground level and clean out the crown one Sycamore (T2).

2006: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 65 of 1997 to fell one Monterey Cypress (T1). Refused.

2010: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 64 of 1997 to fell to ground level or to reduce height and spread of one Holly (Part of Group G1) in front garden in connection with construction of front boundary wall (not to exceed 1 metre in height with wall piers); and reduce height by one-third and shape one Holly in rear garden (T9). Split Decision refused felling of Holly tree of Group G1.

2017: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 64 of 1997 to crown lift up to 3 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres, crown thin 10% and prune to clear cables by up 0.5 metres one Beech tree T11 and one Beech tree of group G1.

Planning Assessment

The trees are a pair of medium sized mature Beech growing in the front garden adjacent to the footpath of Offington Drive. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views. The trees are;

Purple Beech T11
The Beech tree T11 is located adjacent to the southwest of the front lawn adjacent to the access road way from Offington Drive. The tree is the larger of the two, with a large single stem that extends to 3 metres, where it then divides into 2 to 3 tightly forked stems that each divide several times to the top of the crown. The main crown is low and dense with some wider spreading secondary limbs.

Purple Beech tree of group G1
This tree is in the northwest corner of the front garden, the tree has twin stems from a common source 0.5 metres above ground level. The main crown breaks on the two stems at 1.5 metres. The base of the tree has some extended buttresses and surface roots, with the very low front wall ending short to accommodate them. The main crown of the tree is dense, wide spreading from rather squat.

The scope of the works has been revised during the course of the application in agreement with the applicant. The proposed works for both trees are to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres, and reduce radial spread by up to 1 to 3 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the crowns, and maintain the clearance from the main building.

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: 31/01/2025

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 31/01/2025