Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 01/07/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0557/24**
Address	**1 Gorse Avenue Worthing West Sussex BN14 9PH**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.22 of 1994 to re-pollard to previous points (approx 6 metre reduction) one Ash tree of group G1.**

Date of site visit: 13/06/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a single or intertwined pair of Ash trees in the southwest corner of the rear garden of 1 Gorse Avenue. The tree is a part of a group of trees G1, which consists of two Ash and one Sycamore. The tree has limited effect on the street scene, but is part of a large number of preserved trees within the block of properties between Gorse Avenue Offington Drive and Poulters Lane.

Consent is sought to re-pollard to previous points (approx 6 metre reduction) one Ash tree of group G1.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1994: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 22 of 1994 confirmed on 09/11/15.

1999: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.22/1994 to remove the lower branches to crown lift two Common Ash and one Sycamore (G1) and minor pruning of branches to remove branches away from telephone wires to Tree of Heaven (T4).

2004: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 22 of 1994 to crown reduce two Ash trees and one Sycamore (within Group G 1)

2011: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 22 of 1994 to crown reduce by 30% one Ash and to crown reduce by 30% and thin by 10% one Sycamore in rear garden - Application Refused.

2015: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 22 of 1994 to reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres, on one Ash tree of group G1.

2015: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 22 of 1994 to reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres on one Sycamore tree of group G1.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a tall medium sized early mature growing in the rear garden of 1 Gorse Avenue, close to the northwest of the rear garden of 32 Poulters Lane. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be partially seen from the main road.

The tree has two stems from ground level that both start to divide at 1 metre, into several slender stems that are mostly upright, with some that arch over to the south. The tree has previously been reduced at 9 metres, where the stems all divide again creating a slightly top heavy tree. The main crown is open with a patchy covering of dense foliage, mostly to the perimeter of the crown and on the overarching secondary branches.

The proposed works are to re-pollard to previous points (approx 6 metre reduction). The works are primarily to allow more light to the garden of 1 Gorse Avenue and the gardens of the adjoining properties.

These 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 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: 01/07/2024

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 04/07/2024