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

Application Number	**AWDM/0503/24**
Address	**29 Offington Avenue Worthing West Sussex BN14 9PH**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.43 of 1997 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres one Red Horse Chestnut T2 and to reduce crown height by up to 5 metres on Irish Yew T3.**

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 two trees, a medium sized early mature Red Horse Chestnut T2 located near the Southeast corner of the rear garden, and an Irish Yew that is slightly West of the centre of the rear garden. The trees are a prominent part of the local landscape and make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread of the Red Horse Chestnut T2 and to reduce crown height on Irish Yew T3.

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

1997: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 43 of 1997 confirmed on 02/10/1997.

2002: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 43 of 1997 to crown lift to 2.5 metres, clean out the crown and remove dead wood on one Wild Cherry (T1); clean out crown on one Red Horse Chestnut (T2); and remove smallest branches on arching limb over garden and remove dead wood on one Purple leaved Plum (T4).

Planning Assessment

The trees are two medium sized early matures: one Red Horse Chestnut and one Irish Yew, growing in the Southern half of the rear garden. The trees are part of the area, and can be seen from several views.

The trees are:

Red Horse Chestnut T2
This tree has a slightly leaning gnarled single stem to 4 metres where it then divides into two main scaffold stems; the East stem persists to 8 metres, with the West stem dividing again at 6 metres. The lower section of the tree is slightly sparse, becoming more dense in the upper section. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

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

Irish Yew T3
The Irish Yew tree T3 is multi-stemmed from ground level with a mass of stems forming a tight upright array. The Northern side of the tree is dense with foliage from ground level, with the Southside having areas of bare branches. The tree has a cone shape with a flat top, typical of the species. The main crown is dense and mostly compact, with some protruding or broken branches..

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 5 metres. The works are to contain the size of the tree and allow more light and air to pass over 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: 01/07/2024

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 03/07/2024