Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 15/01/24**

Application Number	**AWDM/1529/23**
Address	**Worthing College 1 Sanditon Way Worthing West Sussex BN14 9FD**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.1 of 1958 to reduce radial spread by up to 1 to 2 metres (to previous points) Holm Oak trees of group G9.**

Date of site visit: 21/11/23

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a group of 12 Holm Oak trees in the front field of Worthing College. The trees are growing as a group to form a tight copse of trees that are a centre piece to the complex's large lawn area.

Consent is sought to reduce radial spread to previous points.

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1958: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 1 of 1958 confirmed 14 November 1947.
1979: Application to fell 1 Cupressus Macrocarpa Group G.2 and 1 Cupressus Macrocarpa Group G.17 and to lop 1 Weeping Ash Group G.1
1983: Application to fell 28 trees including Holm Oak, Scots Pine, Lawson Cypress, False Acacia, Beech, Ash and Sycamore distributed within Groups G1,G2,G3 and G18 and lopping 9 trees including Holm Oak and Sycamore within Groups G3 and G17 The Warren Warren Road.
1996: Application to carry out works to one Copper Beech and one Sycamore (within group G1) comprising:- raise crown to give minimum of 1.5m clearance from roof of adjacent workshop to Copper Beech, and insert supportive cable brace to Sycamore - London & Edinburgh The Warren Warren Road
2006: Application to crown reduce and clean out 6 Sycamore (Acer Pseudoplatanus) within Groups G1 and G2 and crown lift and clean out 1 English Oak within Group G1
2014: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 1of 1958 to reduce southern limb by up to 2 metres and install non-invasive bracing system to one Beech tree of group G1
2014: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.1 of 1958 to reduce crown height up to 2 metres (to previous pollard points) and reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres (to previous points), on three sycamore trees of group G1.

2014: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.1 of 1958 to reduce radial spread of lower canopy on the West side shortening main scaffold limbs by up to 8.5 metres, on Holm Oak trees within the group G9

2016: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.1 of 1958 to crown lift up to 2.5 to 5.5 metres, 1 Oak and 6 mixed trees of group G4, and all trees adjacent to the boundary wall of group G17 and G18, to remove dead and dying wood from 1 Norway Maple of group G18 and one Lime of group G18, and to fell and replace 1 Beech and 1 Field Maple of group G18, 1 Norway Maple of group G4, and all dead Elms of groups G4 and G18.

2017: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.1 of 1958 to remove selected limb of two Holm Oak, and crown lift up to 3 metres, one Holm of group G17, to reduce radial spread 1 to 2 metres on two Sycamores of group G1, to reduce to allow clearance of 0.5 metres to adjacent building one English Oak of G1, to deadwood two Sycamore trees of group G17 and to fell and replace two Horse Chestnut trees of group G17 and one Ash tree of group G18.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.1 of 1958 to deadwood 1 Holm Oak, 1 Horse Chestnut and 1 Monterey Pine of group G17 and 1 Ash of group G4 and 1 Monterey Pine of group G16, and to fell 1 Holly tree of group G1, 1 Sycamore of group G16 and one Horse Chestnut tree of group G17.

2023: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.1 of 1958 to fell and replace one Pine tree T630 of group G17.

Planning Assessment

The trees are large mature Holm Oaks growing in close proximity in a circular copse in the front area of 1 Sanditon Way. They are visible from the main trunk road and roundabout of the busy A27, and are an established important prominent feature of the area.

The group of trees are between 16 -18 metres tall with foliage from near ground level. Some of the trees have over extended branches arching out further than the main group. The West side of the group was previously reduced heavily to allow clearance to the rugby pitch. The other aspects of the group have not been pruned and have the widest overhang. There are many cavities and areas of damage etc. on most of the trees, which is expected for trees of this size and age. Some trees already have large low down pruning wounds where major limbs have been lost or removed.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread to the West by up to 1 to 2 metres (to previous points). The works are to maintain the spread of the trees on the Western side of the group.

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: 15/01/2024

Authorised by: LPrew Date: 15/01/2024