Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 18/06/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0495/24**
Address	**Street Record Willow Court Worthing West Sussex**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.14 of 1978 to reduce radial spread to East by up to 2 metres one Horse Chestnut tree T1 of group G5.**

Date of site visit: 22/04/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a large tall to mature Lime tree located near the centre of the Southern side of the front grounds, between the access driveway and the boundary with the open space of College Gardens. The tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce radial spread to East by up to 2 metres

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

1978: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 14 of 1978 confirmed on 01/05/1979..

1994: Application for the pollarding of three Lime trees within group 3 (G3) of Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.14 1978. Refused.

2001: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 14/1978 to crown lift to 4.6 metres a group of three Lime trees (Group G3) and crown thinning by up to 20% by the removal of dead and small branches within the crown.

2013: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 14 of 1978 to remove epicormic growth, crown lift up to 5 metres and cut back branches to clear building by up to 2 metres on 3 Lime trees of Group G3.

2017:` Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.14 of 1978 to cut back epicormic growth and branches of two Lime trees in group G3 growing towards adjacent property to the north to provide 2m clearance.

2022: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.14 of 1978 to reduce radial spread to by up to 3 metres, and remove epicormic growth three Lime trees of group G3.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Lime growing in the front grounds south of the access driveway and parking areas of Willow Court. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The tree has a stout single stem to 5 metres where it begins to divide into several large diameter secondary stems. The main scaffold stems are angled outward to the South Southeast and East, with the stems to the North being more upright. The first limbs emerge from 2 to 3 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some over extended and lower hanging laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread to East by up to 2 metres. The works are to contain the spread of the tree, and maintain the clearance to the adjacent buildings of College gardens.

These works in my opinion would be 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: 18/06/2024

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 18.06.2024