Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 08/01/24**

Application Number	**AWDM/1417/23**
Address	**The Chestnuts 17 Longlands Spinney Worthing West Sussex BN14 9NU**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.37 of 2003 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2.5 metres two Sycamore trees of group G14 and to reduce radial spread (mid section) by up to 2.5 metres, and crown lift up to 6 metres one Sweet Chestnut tree T17.**

Date of site visit: 06/12/23

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two tall mature Sycamore trees of group G14 near the Southeast corner of the front garden, and a larger older Sweet Chestnut located near the centre of the northern boundary of the front garden close to the pavement and carriageway of Longlands Spinney. The trees are a prominent part of the street scene and make a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread of the two Sycamore trees of group G14 and to reduce radial spread (mid section), and crown lift the Sweet Chestnut tree T17

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

2003: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 37 of 2003 confirmed on 29/09/14.

2007: Application to remove branches over the highway and reduce away from street light (as a minor crown reduction) to Sycamore T16, and crown lift easternmost Sycamore of group of three (G14) and remove deadwood. **Split Decision - Approved with Conditions** **Appeal Decision - REFUSED** Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 37 of 2003 to crown reduce individual Sycamore tree (T16).

2007: Application to reduce side branches and dead wood to individual Sweet Chestnut tree (T17) and reduce towards the property and dead wood to the two Sycamore trees (G14). **Split Decision - Approved with Conditions** **Split Decision - REFUSED** Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 37 of 2003 to crown prune by 15-20% the two Sycamores (part of Group G14).

2014: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.37 of 2003 to remove dead wood from one Sweet Chestnut tree T17, and to reduce crown height by up to 4 metres, thin by up to 15% and reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres two Sycamore trees of group G14.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.37 of 2003 to remove dead wood and crossing and cracked branches for safety reasons to one Sweet Chestnut tree (T17) in front garden.

Planning Assessment

The trees are a large mature Sweet Chestnut and two tall Sycamores growing in the front garden where they are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The trees are:

Sycamore trees T1 and T2 of group G14
The Sycamore trees are part of group G14, which consists of three Sycamore trees growing in a close group on the boundary between 17 and 16 Longlands Spinney. The two Sycamore are tall slender trees which have been forced by their proximity to each other. They are single stemmed to the crown break at 6-7 metres. There are no leading stems within the crowns which are formed of long slim stems associated with a previous crown reduction. The main crowns are slightly open and wide spread with some over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2.5 metres to contain the size and spread of the trees and allow more light and air to pass around the crown.

Sweet Chestnut T17
The Sweet Chestnut tree is located on the Northern boundary adjacent to the pavement and driveway. The tree has a stout single stem that persists to 15 metres, with densely foliated large laterals that are evenly spaced from 5 metres. The central stem divides from 15 metres, with the upper crown becoming more open. The main crown is dense and wide spread, becoming more compact and open in the higher sections.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread in the mid section of the crown, by up to 2.5 metres, and crown lift up to 6 metres. The works are to contain the spread of the tree and allow access and allow more light and air to pass beneath 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: 08/01/2024

Authorised by: LP Date: 08/01/2024