Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 10/02/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/1429/24**
Address	**9 Coombe Rise Worthing West Sussex BN14 0ED**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.51 of 1990 to reduce radial spread to West by up to 1 metre Silver Birch T1 of group G1, and to fell and replace Silver Birch tree T2 of group G1.**

Date of site visit: 18/12/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two Silver Birch trees in the rear garden of 9 Coombe Rise, adjacent to Cissbury Gardens. The trees are slender tall narrow trees that are prominent and provide some amenity to the area.

Consent is sought to reduce radial spread Silver Birch T1 of group G1, and to fell and replace Silver Birch tree T2 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

1990: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 51 of 1990 confirmed on 24/01/90.

2000: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.51 of 1990 to Crown lift to 3 metres by the removal of lowest branches back to the bole, one Atlas Cedar tree T1

2007: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 51 of 1990 to fell one Blue Atlas Cedar (T1).

2015: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.51 of 1990 to crown lift up to 4 metres and crown thin up to 15% three Silver Birch trees of group G1.

2023: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.51 of 1990 to crown lift up to 4 metres, crown thin up to 10% and remove deadwood two Silver Birch trees of group G1.

Planning Assessment
The trees are two tall mature Silver Birch growing in the rear garden adjacent to the Eastern boundary that extends along Cissbury Gardens. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views. The trees are:

Silver Birch T1 of group G1
This tree is the furthest North of the two, and has a slender single to 8.5 metres, where it terminates due to damage with the stem being dead and decaying from 7 metres. The tree has five significant sized limbs with only the first two limbs, which emerge from 4 metres being live with new buds. The main crown is sparse and has several areas of damage and fungal brackets.

The proposed works are to fell and replace the tree, which is in decline, and unlikely to survive another season.

Silver Birch T2 of group G1
The Silver Birch tree T2 of group G1 is to the south of the group, and has a slightly larger single stem that persists to 8 metres and has limbs from 4 metres. The main stem divides into several slender stems and laterals from 8 metres that each divide again several times to the top. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread to West by up to 1 metre Silver Birch T1 of group G1. The works are to contain the spread of the tree and balance the crown.

The works to the Silver Birch tree T2 of group G1, 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.

The works to fell and replace the Silver Birch tree T1 of group G1 will be large in relation to the overall number of trees and a significant amount of change will take place. However the effect on the area will be compensated with the provision of a replacement tree.

Recommendation

APPROVE

Grant Consent, subject to the following Conditions:

1. Approved plans

2. The proposed works to the Silver Birch tree T2, hereby permitted, shall be restricted to reduction in radial spread to the West by up to 0.5 to 1 metre 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*

3. The proposed felling of the Silver Birch tree of group G1, identified on the applicants plan as T1, and its replacement shall be carried out in full within two years from the date of this consent and in accordance with details of the size species and position of the replacement tree planting to be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

   Reason: *In the interest of visual amenity.*

4. If within five years following replanting, the replacement tree dies or becomes seriously diseased, another tree of the same size and species shall be planted in a similar position during the next planting season following the removal of the replacement tree, unless the Local Planning Authority gives written approval to any variation.

   Reason: *In the interest of visual amenity.*

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation?

No

Case Officer:	JDS	Date: 10/02/2025
Authorised by:	Louise Prew	Date: 10/02/2025