**Development Management – Delegated Officer Report** **Date; 21/03/24**

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| **Application Number** | **AWDM/0033/24** |
| **Address** | **Eaton Court Gorse Avenue Worthing West Sussex** |
| **Proposal** | **Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.5 of 1992 to reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres, and crown lift up to 3.5 metres, one Robinia one Holly and one Yew of group G2, and to remove deadwood from English Oak tree T10.** |

**Date of site visit:** 14/02/24

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

**Proposal, Site and Surroundings**

The application refers to four trees along the southern boundary of the grounds of Eaton Court, three within group G2 to the North of the main block, and a single English Oak closer to the Southwest corner. The trees are part of an established group of trees, which are part of the street scene and make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce radial spread and crown lift one Robinia, one Holly and one Yew of group G2, and to remove deadwood from the English Oak tree T10.

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

**Consultations:** None.

**Representations:** None received.

**Relevant Planning History**

1992: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 5 of 1992 confirmed on 03/08/92.

2004: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order 05/1992 to crown lift to 5 metres, above garages, to one False Acacia (part of G2)

2008: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 5 of 1992 to clean out and prune Ash (T2) to clear roofs of adjacent buildings; to crown lift three Holly trees (T9 and Part of Group G1) to 2.5 metres and remove long branches; and to clean out one English Oak (T10).

2016: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.5 of 1992 to reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres one English Oak tree T10, and one Holly tree T2 of group G2, and to reduce height and radial spread near main building by up to 3 metres, on one Robinia tree T3 of group G2.

2019: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.5 of 1992 to reduce radial spread to north by up to 2.5 metres, crown lift up to 5 metres and crown thin up to 20% Oak tree T10.

2021: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 5 of 1992 to reduce crown height by up to 3 metres and reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres one Oak tree T10 and to fell and replace one Ash tree T2.

**Planning Assessment**

The trees are medium to large sized matures growing in a narrow border in between the boundary with 13 Gorse Avenue, and the access driveway to the rear of Eaton Court. The trees are a part of an established group, which are prominent in the street scene and make a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area. The trees are:

Robinia T1 of group G2
This tree is allocated to the Eastern end of group G2, and has a large single stem that persists to 9 metres, where it then divides into three main scaffold stems. There are secondary stems from 4 metres. The main crown is slightly sparse and open, with some laterals being wider spread.

Holly T2 of group G2
The Holly is the centre tree of group G2. The tree has a single curved stem to 8 metres where it divides. The first laterals emerge from 1.5 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

Yew T3 of group G2
The Yew tree T3 is the furthest West of the three trees of group G2. The tree has a single stem to 3.75 metres, where it then divides into a cluster of tightly forked upright stems that mostly persist to the top. The tree has foliage and laterals from ground level, the lower limbs being partially covered by an incursion of Ivy The main crown is dense and wide spread.

The proposed works for all three trees are to reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres, and crown lift up to 3.5 metres. The works are to contain the spread of the trees, abate possible future nuisance and allow access and more light and air to pass beneath the crowns.

English Oak T10
This Is a large mature Oak growing in a narrow border in between the boundary with 13 Gorse Avenue, and the access driveway to the rear of Eaton Court. The tree has a slightly curved single stem that is clear to 8 metres, and at 11 metres divides into 3 main stems that each radiate away from the central bole. The main crown is high and open and some wider spreading secondary branches to the north and northeast.

The proposed works are to remove deadwood for safety and amenity reasons.

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: 21/03/2024

Authorised by: Date: