Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 04/12/23**

Application Number	**AWDM/1315/23**
Address	**22 Gorse Avenue Worthing West Sussex BN14 9PG**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.44 of 1997 to reduce crown height and radial spread to previous points (up to 2 metres) crown lift up to 4 metres, and crown thin 20% one English Oak tree T2.**

Date of site visit: 21/11/23

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a large mature Oak located in the front garden adjacent to the entrance driveway from Gorse Avenue, the tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread to previous points, crown lift and crown thin.

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

1997: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 44 of 1997 confirmed on 15/12/1997.

2004: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.44/1997 to crown lift to 5 metres, 20% crown thin and reduce away from the property by 2 metres one mature Oak (T2) in front garden.

2005: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order 44/1997 to crown reduce by 3 metres, crown thin by 40% and crown lift, to one Wild Cherry tree (T3)

2009: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.44 of 1997 to crown reduce by 30% and reduce spread from property and thin one English Oak (T2).

2010: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 44 of 1997 to crown lift to 4 metres and reduce crown spread on east side over no. 19 Offington Avenue by up to 1 metre and reduce height by 0.5 metre to one Wild Cherry (T3).

2012: One Oak Tree (T2) in front garden subject to Tree Preservation Order No. 44 of 1997. Crown reduce by 2 metres on all sides including height.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 44 of 1997 to reduce radial spread by up to 2m, raise canopy to 5m and thin canopy by 20% one Oak tree T2; to fell one Cherry tree T3.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature English Oak growing in the front garden South of the entrance driveway and close to the junction of Gorse Avenue and Offington Avenue. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The Oak tree T2 has a large diameter single stem with epicormic growth at 3 metres and otherwise clear to to 5.5 metres, where it then becomes twin stemmed. The two stems are tightly forked separating from 6 metres with each dividing again at 7 to 8 metres forming tightly forked mostly upright scaffold limbs. The main crown is dense and wide spread on mostly secondary branches. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread to previous points at 2 metres, crown lift up to 4 metres, and crown thin 20%. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree, allow access beneath and allow more light and air to pass through the crown.

These works 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.

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: 04/12/2023

Authorised by: PB Date: 4/12/23