Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 17/07/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0628/24**
Address	**Runnymede 16 Links Road Worthing West Sussex BN14 9QY**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.23 of 1990 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres one Maple one Ash and one Horse Chestnut tree of area A1, and to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres one Spruce of group G9.**

Date of site visit: 08/07/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a linear group of tall mature trees located on the Southern boundary of the rear garden, and one Spruce located near the entrance from Links Road, North of the driveway. The trees are a prominent part of the local landscape and make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread one Maple, one Ash and one Horse Chestnut tree all of area A1, and to reduce crown height one Spruce of group G9.

The reasons for the works are primarily in the interests of light issues and amenity value.

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1990: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 23 of 1990 confirmed on 18/03/1991.

1991: Application to fell 1 Sycamore and 3 Pine trees subject to Worthing Tree Preservation Order 23 of 1990.

2023: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.23 of 1990 to reduce crown height by up to 3 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 4 metres and crown lift up to 4 metres, one Purple Beech tree T11 and one Ash, one Cherry, two Cypress and two Acers of group G8.

Planning Assessment

The Ash T1, Maple T2 and Horse chestnut T3, of Area A1 are large tall mature trees growing on the boundary with 12 Wildwood Links Road on the Southern side of the rear garden. Although close to the South Downs National Park, the three trees subject to this application are not readily visible from Links Road, with the trees further East of the Area A1(within 15 Hollybank Links Road) being more

publicly prominent. The Spruce T1 of group G9 is part of a group of trees to the North of the entrance Driveway, that are close to the gateway from Links Road. The trees contribute to the area and can be seen from several views.

Ash Maple and Horse Chestnut of Area A1
These trees are part of a group that forms a screen between properties in Links Road and are growing as part of a dense tightly packed linear group that extends eastward to the side of Links Road. The oldest and largest tree is the Horse Chestnut which also has the widest spread, with most of the trees being a similar height. The combined crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 metres one Maple one Ash and one Horse Chestnut tree of area A1. The Works are to contain the size and spread of the trees and allow more light and air to pass their crowns.

Spruce T4 of Group G9
The single Spruce tree T4 of group G9 has a large diameter single stem that persists to within 2 metres of the top of the crown. The first significant laterals emerge from 3 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 2 metres only. The works are to contain the height of the tree, encouraging more lateral than upright growth.

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: 17/07/2024

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 18/07/2024