Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 17/01/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/1245/24**
Address	**Sycamore Courtlands Way Worthing West Sussex BN12 4BX**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.5 of 1987 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1.5 metres and crown thin 15% Sycamore tree T2.**

Date of site visit: 16/01/25

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a single Sycamore tree in the small rear garden of "Sycamore" in Courtland's Way, which is an unmade roadway that links Sea Place in the west to Wallace Avenue in the east and crosses George V Avenue. The tree is an established part of the street scene and makes a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

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

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

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1987: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 5 of 1987 confirmed on 22/09/87.

1988: Application to remove one branch from ash tree overhanging neighbouring property to east and crown lifting of Sycamore (subject to Worthing Tree Preservation Order No 5/1987). 24 Courtlands Close, Sycamore Courtlands Way

2009: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 5 of 1987 to crown reduce by 1.21m - 1.52m (4-5 feet) one Sycamore (T2) Split Decision: Refused: The proposed crown reduction in overall height and spread of the Sycamore tree by between 4 ft. and 5 ft. (1.21m to 1.52m)

2016: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.5 of 1987 to crown reduce radial spread by 1 to 2 metres and up to 2.5 metres, on the northeast, to crown thin 15% and remove epicormics growth on one Sycamore tree T2.

2021: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.5 of 1987 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres, crown thin up to 15% and remove epicormic growth one Sycamore T2.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a small to medium sized mature Sycamore growing in the rear garden of the property adjacent to the southern boundary with Courtland's Way. The tree is prominent to the area and can be seen from many views.

The Sycamore tree T1 has a single stem from ground level dividing into 4 to 5 large diameter upright stems from 0.5 metres. The stems are parallel to 4 metres where they then arch away and begin to divide forming a tight array. The main crown is dense and widespread

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1.5 metres, and crown thin up to 15%. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree 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:17/01/2025

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 23.01.2025