Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 15/08/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/0753/25**
Address	**6 Offington Avenue Worthing West Sussex BN14 9PE**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.48 of 1997 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres, and crown lift up to 5.5 metres, English Oak tree T14.**

Date of site visit: 06/08/25

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a large mature English Oak located near the centre of the front garden between the in-out driveways from Offington 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, and crown lift English Oak tree T14.

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 48 of 1997 confirmed on 05/12/1997.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.48 of 1997 to crown lift 2-3 low branches over highway to statutory height (5.5m), reduce 3-4 lateral branches growing towards roof of building to allow a clearance of up to 2m and to remove dead wood, epicormic growth, and crossing and congested branches on one English Oak T14.

Planning Assessment

The tree is one of several large mature English Oak trees, both on public and private land that line Offington Avenue, and surrounding roads. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The Oak tree T14 has a large diameter single stem that begins to reduce in width from 6 metres and divides into two from 7 to 8 metres, with both stems dividing several times to form the crown. The first significant laterals emerge from 6 metres, including a very large limb to the South. 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 by up to 2 metres, and crown lift up to 5.5 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow access and allow more light and air to pass beneath 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: 15/08/2025

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 15/08/2025