Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 07/10/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0915/24**
Address	**297 South Farm Road Worthing West Sussex BN14 7TL**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.52 of 1997 to reduce radial spread by up to 3 metres, crown lift up to 5 metres, and crown thin 15% one Ash tree T3.**

Date of site visit: 17/09/24

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 Ash located near the centre of the Western boundary of the rear garden.The tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce radial spread, 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 52 of 1997 confirmed on 09/09/97.

2005: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 52/1997 to clean out one Birch tree (T2), to crown thin by up to 15%, to carry out minor crown reduction, to crown lift up to 5 metres above ground level and to clean out two Ash trees (T3 and T4) and two Oak trees (T5 and T7).

2012: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 52/1997 to remove ivy and dead wood on one Silver Birch (T2), to remove dead wood and clean off water shoots and remove overhanging branch over neighbouring property on one Common Ash (T3) and to remove lower branch to shape English Oak (T7) all in rear garden.

2015: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 52 of 1997 to crown thin by up to 15% one Silver Birch tree T2. Crown thin by up to 20%, reduce radial spread by up to 2 metres and reduce to suitable growth point one lower limb on the north west side of one Ash tree T4. Crown lift up to 6 metres, reduce radial spread up to 1.5 to 2 metres one Oak tree T5. Crown thin by up to 15%, remove first limb on south side one Ash tree T6, and to crown thin up to 15% and reduce radial spread up to 1 metre on one Oak tree T7

Planning Assessment

The tree is a large mature Ash growing in the rear garden adjacent to the boundary with the rear grounds and garage compound of Elizabeth House Poulters Lane. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from several views.

The tree has a single stem to 4.5 metres, where it then divides into two that each divide again from 5.5 metres with the resulting stems arching outward from 10 to 12 metres. The main crown is moderately dense and wider spread in the upper section of the crown.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread by up to 3 metres, crown lift up to 5 metres, and crown thin up to 15%. The works are to contain the 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: 07/10/2024

Authorised by: Louise Prew Date: 08/10/2024