Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 29/07/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0673/24**
Address	**37 Offington Avenue Worthing West Sussex BN14 9PH**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.45 of 1997 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 to 4 metres one English Oak tree T1.**

Date of site visit: 13/06/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to one large mature, possibly veteran English Oak tree in the rear garden of 37 Offington Avenue. The tree is an established feature, which is prominent in 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 one English Oak tree T1.

The reasons for the works are primarily in the interests of safety, and amenity value.

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1997: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 45 of 1997 confirmed on 09/09/1997.

1999: Application to remove the lower pendulous branches, East side of one Oak Tree (T1), to crown lift to a height of 5 metres above ground level back to the bole or main branches

2002: Application to remove part of one branch protruding towards the house on English Oak (T1)

2014: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.45 of 1997 to reduce radial spread of lower crown by up to 2 metres, and remove one lowest limb on the north side of crown on one English Oak tree T1.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 45 of 1997 to raise the east, south and west portions of the canopy to provide approximately 6m ground clearance (matching northern side) to one English Oak tree T1.

Planning Assessment
The tree is a large veteran English Oak, growing in the rear garden of 37 Offington Avenue, with the massive elongated stem straddling the fence line, between numbers 37 and 39. The tree is clearly visible from the public road, and an established feature of the area.

The English Oak T1 has a single stout stem to 4 metres, where it then divides into two very large main stems, with remains of a third stem, lost several decades ago. The two main stems extend up to a forced crown break at around 8 metres, with a total height of around 16 metres: very tall for the relatively small garden. The tree has a dense, wide spreading crown, and although healthy and vigorous, has several large areas of decay and damage, including cavities within the two main secondary stems that continue all the way through. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 3 to 4 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree crown, and greatly reduce weight on the compromised stems to ensure the longevity of the tree.

These works in my opinion will be relatively large in relation to the overall size, spread and crown form of the tree and will significantly affect its appearance. However the works are considered necessary in order to preserve the tree's long term amenity value, and 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: 29/07/2024

Authorised by: LPrew Date: 31/07/2024