Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 04/04/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/0184/25**
Address	**Balmoral Court Worthing West Sussex BN11 5AX**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.8 of 1990 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres one Beech T4 and reduce crown height by up to 1 metre and reduce radial spread by up to 1 to 2 metres Sycamore T7.**

Date of site visit: 04/03/25

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two trees: a large mature Sycamore T7 located near the centre of the northern boundary wall, and a slightly smaller Beech tree adjacent to the footpath to the garage blocks. The trees are a prominent part of the street scene and make a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to reduce crown height and radial spread Beech T4 and Sycamore T7.

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 8 of 1990 confirmed on 23/05/1990.

2001: Consent granted 5th March 2001 to crown reduce by 50% and remove dead and dying wood on group of Western Red Cedars (WB/01/00101/TPO)

2008: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 8 of 1990 to reduce crown spread of one Copper Beech (T4) by 10%; clean out the crown of one Sycamore (T7) by removal of dead, diseased and crossed branches; and crown lift group of Western Red Cedars (G1) to 4 metres on southern side and reduce their spread by up to 0.5 metres uniformly, and remove two dead stemmed Western Red Cedars.

2008: Consent granted 14th April 2008 to reduce spread of 1 Copper Beech (T4) by 10%; clean out the crown of one Sycamore (T7); and crown lift group of Western Red Cedars (G1) to 4 m on southern side and reduce their spread by up to 0.5 m, and remove two dead stemmed Western Red Cedars (WB/08/0203/TPO

2012: Consent granted 6th February 2013 to prune clear of the property, to give a 2 metres clearance, the westernmost Western Red Cedar tree in the group of seven Western Red Cedar trees (Group G1) along the northern side of the front garden (AWDM/1534/12)

2013: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.8 of 1990 to reduce crown spread by up to 0.1 to 1 metre to give gradual extending of spread on South side of crown nearest building of Thuja tree part of group G1.

2015: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.8 of 1990 to crown lift up to 3 metres, removing secondary branches only one Beech tree T4.

2022: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.8 of 1990 to reduce crown height by up to 4 to 5 metres, 7 Thuja trees of group G1.

2025: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.8 of 1990 to fell and replace 7 Western Red Cedar trees of group G1.

Planning Assessment

The trees are two large matures; one Sycamore and one Beech growing in the northside of the rear grounds, between the main block and the residents garage compound. The trees prominent to the area and can be seen from many views. The trees are:

Beech T4
This tree has a single stem to 1 metre, where the main stem begins to divide and continues dividing to the top of the crown. Secondary limbs emerge at 0.75 metre, some of which extend to be equal with the central stems in height. The crown is a slightly crowded wide array of stems that form a dense block of foliage when in leaf.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 2 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree and allow more light and air to pass the crown.

Sycamore T7
The tree has a single stem to 1.2 metres, where it divides into two; the Southern stem divides into two at 2.25 metres, with all three straight and upright secondary stems persisting to 6 to 7 metres, before dividing into the balanced high crown that is moderately dense and widespread with some slightly over extended lower laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce crown height by up to 1 metre and reduce radial spread by up to 1 to 2 metres. The works are to contain the size and spread of the tree.

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:04/04/2025

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 08.04.2025