Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 27/06/2024**

Application Number	**AWDM/0513/24**
Address	**Touchstones Care Home 9 - 11 Shakespeare Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 4AL**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.14 of 1989 to fell and replace one Flowering Cherry tree T1 of group G1.**

Date of site visit: 18/06/24

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

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a small to medium sized mature Cherry located near the centre of the frontage, adjacent to the Eastern boundary wall. The tree is a prominent part of the street scene and makes a contribution to the character and visual amenities of the Winchester Road Conservation Area.

Consent is sought to fell and replace the tree.

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

Consultations: Letter sent to The Worthing Society, who did not respond.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

1989: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 14 of 1989 confirmed on 26/11/1990

1997: The property is included within the Winchester Road Conservation Area XXI designated by the Council on 29th April 1997.

2014: Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to reduce crown height by up to 1 metre, reduce radial spread to the eastside by up to 2 metres and reduce radial spread on all other aspects by up to 1 metre, on one Magnolia tree in the Winchester Road Conservation Area.

2018: Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to reduce radial crown spread by up to 3m to west to Sycamore in front garden in Winchester Road Conservation Area.

2020: Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to reduce crown height by approx. 1.5m, reduce radial spread to all aspects by 1m and crown thin by 15% one Magnolia tree and to fell and replace one Bay in the Winchester Road Conservation Area.

2024: Section 211 Notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to fell and replace one Sycamore tree and one Magnolia tree in the Winchester Road Conservation Area.

Planning Assessment

The tree is a small mature Cherry growing in a small border in the front grounds close to the public pavement of Shakespeare Road. The tree is prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views.

The ornamental Cherry tree T1 is the last remaining tree of group G1, the tree has a single stem to 2 metres, where it then divides into three main stems that emerge above the original grafting point. The West and Northeast stems divide again from 2.75 metres, with the Southeast stem mostly persisting to the top. The main crown is moderately dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals. The secondary stems have areas of blown bark decay and some long cavities. The main central stem is hollow at its base with brackets of Ganoderma at 0.25 metres, and areas of blown and cracked bark.

The proposed works are to fell and replace the tree due to poor health. Although in full bloom at the time of inspection the tree has a limited life expectancy of less than five years.

These works in my opinion will be large in relation to the overall number of trees and a significant amount of change will take place. However the effect on the area will be compensated with the provision of a replacement tree.

Recommendation

APPROVE

Grant Consent, subject to the following Conditions:

1. Approved plans

2. The proposed felling of the Cherry tree T1, and its replacement shall be carried out in full within two years from the date of this consent and in accordance with details of the size species and position of the replacement tree planting to be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

   Reason: *In the interest of visual amenity.*

3. If within five years following replanting, the replacement tree dies or becomes seriously diseased, another tree of the same size and species shall be planted in a similar position during the next planting season following the removal of the replacement tree, unless the Local Planning Authority gives written approval to any variation.

   Reason: *In the interest of visual amenity.*

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation?

No

Case Officer: JDS Date: 27/06/2024

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 27.06.2024