

**WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL – DEVELOPMENT CONTROL
WORKS TO TPO TREES DELEGATED REPORT**

APPLICATION No:	<u>S6/2011/2259/TP</u>
LOCATION:	3 Hook Lane, Northaw, Potters Bar
PROPOSAL:	<u>To crown reduce the lateral length by 20% on the two oak trees T5 & T6 and crown lift T5 to 7m, TPO 119.</u>

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: To crown reduce the lateral length by 20% on the two oak trees T5 & T6 and crown lift T5 to 7m, TPO 119 to maintain tree.

SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES:

National Policy *PPG2*
East of England Plan 2008
ENV2
Hertfordshire Structure Plan Review 1991 – 2011
None

Welwyn Hatfield District Plan 2005
GBSP1: Definition of Green Belt
R17: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows
D2: Character and Context
D8: Landscaping
RA10: Landscape Character Area and Region

PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS:

None received

REPRESENTATIONS:

The application was advertised by means of neighbour notification and one representation was received. The representation related to the accuracy of the tree location plan.

DISCUSSION:

The two oak trees in question are within the rear garden of the above property. The labelling is consistent with the TPO. T5 stands centrally within the garden and T6 stands close to the boundary with house 4. The representation suggesting the tree location plan is incorrect is not justified.

Both trees seem to have reasonable health and vigour. Their previous historic management has given them a very high lift to approximately 7 metres. T5 has a slightly more ragged crown shape due to historic growing conditions and storm damage. T6 has a rounder crown.

Both trees have been previously crown reduced and the proposal to crown reduce by 20% would take the growth back to previous pruning points. These works are reasonable.

T5 has a slightly more epicormic and bur'd growth form. Epicormic shoots are growing from the stem from 1.5 – 7 metres. Removing these shoots are reasonable works.

Condition 3 of the approval gives two periods within the year when this work can be carried out. Trees use most of their stored or potential energy to leaf out. This energy is then recouped quickly over the following weeks. Crown reducing a tree immediately before leaf out (when the sap is rising), during leaf out or immediately after leaf out, leaves the tree with little reserves of energy to react to the pruning, both in terms of making more leaves and compartmentalising the wounds. A similar situation occurs in the time before, during and immediately after leaf fall. (*Shigo, Modern Arboriculture 1991*)

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS

CONDITIONS

- 1 The works hereby approved shall be undertaken within three years of the date of this notice.

REASON: To ensure that works to trees are undertaken within an appropriate time scale, after which time reconsideration of their suitability should take place

- 2 The works hereby approved shall be undertaken in accordance with the British Standard 3998:2010 (Tree Work) and by an appropriately qualified person

REASON: To ensure that any works undertaken comply with arboricultural best practice.

- 3 The works hereby permitted shall only be carried out during winter (November to February, inclusive) or high summer (June to September, inclusive) and at no other time.

REASON: To minimise the impact on the tree.

REASON FOR APPROVAL: The proposal has been considered against development plan policies (i.e. National Policy, East of England Plan 2008; Welwyn Hatfield District Plan 2005 GBSP1, R17, D2, D8, RA10), in addition to the Human Rights Act 1998, which indicate that the proposal should be approved. Material planning considerations do not justify a decision contrary to the Development Plan (see Officer's report which can be inspected at these offices).

DRAWING NUMBERS: Location plan received and dated

Informative:

1. Following reduction, there should still be a strong framework of healthy small-diameter branches and twigs (leaf bearing structure), capable of producing a dense leaf cover during the following growing season. A crown should normally be reduced in proportion to its original shape, so as to avoid altering the balance of the tree as a whole. (*BS3998:2010 Tree work – Recommendations section 7.7.*)