

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

<b>APPLICATION No:</b>	<b><u>S6/2008/1270/TP</u></b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>9 Gorseway, Hatfield</b>
<b>PROPOSAL:</b>	<b><u>Removal of Beech Tree Covered by TPO 249</u></b>

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:** Removal of beech tree covered by TPO 249 due to restriction of light to house and garden, too large for location, removal of soil moisture, proximity of a second large tree and overhanging branches.

**SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES:**

Hertfordshire Structure Plan Review 1991 – 2011: None

Welwyn Hatfield District Plan 2005:

R17 – Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows  
D2 – Character and Context

**PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

None received

**REPRESENTATIONS:**

The application was advertised by means of neighbour notification and two representations were received. Two adjoining residents support the application. The reasons for support are that large parts fall off in high wind, the tree infringes on other properties and reduces natural light to the dwelling.

**DISCUSSION:**

The tree is a healthy semi-mature beech tree with a dome shaped crown. As it is sited toward the bottom of the rear garden, it partially overhangs several gardens and has approximately a 2.5meter crown lift. It shows no signs of damage from high winds. The tree was protected at the time of development and is one of the few remaining semi-mature or mature trees within sight.

The rear garden is to the north of the residence. Much of the reduction of natural light to the house would continue if the tree were to be removed. The rear of the house, where the living room is sited is north facing and has small windows. The rear garden of the property is shaded by the tree but also by the terrace of houses on Gorseway. The garden does have table and chairs for outside living so the garden is still being used. The application does state that the tree prevents the growth of a lawn and

precludes growing flowers and shrubs. The garden currently has patchy grown grass and contains no other soft landscaping.

There is a semi-mature lime tree in the adjacent (11) garden. This tree is similarly blamed for shading etc. The removal of the beech tree within the garden of number 9 may increase the pressure on the tree in the garden of number 11 to be removed as the tree will be seen to cause the same issues.

The application includes a proposal to plant a weeping silver birch toward the rear fence line. This tree would obtain a similar stature the trees current size after 10-15 years with a lighter shadow play. However due to the denseness of the houses it would still cause the same issues within the surrounding houses and gardens of shade, branches overhanging and debris falling from the tree.

**RECOMMENDATION: REFUSAL REASON (S)**

Refusal of removal of beech tree covered by TPO 249.

**REASON FOR REFUSAL** :The tree has a high amenity value within this young development. To remove and replace the tree would simply push the reasons for removal back 10 years.

**DRAWING NUMBERS: \*site plan received 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008.**

**Author..... Date...22 September 2008.....**