

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

APPLICATION No:	<u>S6/2010/444/TP</u>
LOCATION:	9 Hook Lane, Northaw
PROPOSAL:	<u>Crown thin oak tree by 20% covered by TPO119</u> <u>T13</u>

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: Crown thin oak tree by 20% covered by TPO119 T13 to maintain the good health of the tree.

SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES:

National Policy
PPG2: Green Belts

East of England Plan 2008
ENV2: Landscape Character

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 no representations were received.

DISCUSSION:

This fully mature oak tree stands within the rear garden of 9 Hook Lane. It is approximately 18 metres tall and has a radial spread of between 5 and 6 metres.

The crown has not previously had any major works carried out on it. There is a large wound at 2.5 metres which is some years old and is occluding well. Some deadwood is visible in the crown. It is not numerous and is less than 2cm in diameter and therefore not a significant indicator of the trees health. Overall the tree appears to have good vitality.

The crown does not have epicormic growth through the crown nor is it particularly congested. The tree has perhaps retained slightly more secondary and tertiary branches within the crown than is usual for a tree of this age and species.

The proposal is to thin the tree by 20% to maintain the good health of the tree. In this case the tree does not appear to have any health or structural issues which would require a crown thinning. However, as the crown has retained some internal branches it could be argued that the thinning will reduce excess wind loading on the tree. If carried out properly should not effect the overall amenity of the tree.

Condition 2 of the approval instructs that the works shall be carried out in accordance with BS3998. Crown thinning is specifically discussed in section 13.6 of BS3998:1989.

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 (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 PPG2, East of England Plan 2008 ENV2, Welwyn Hatfield District Plan 2005 GBSP2, 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 3rd March 2010.

Author..... Date.....23rd April 2010.....