

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

APPLICATION No:	<u>S6/2010/2301/TP</u>
LOCATION:	Land opposite 40 park Street, Hatfield
PROPOSAL:	<u>Deadwood and crown reduction by 20% two horse chestnuts T1 & T2 covered by TPO343.</u>

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: Crown reduce two horse chestnuts by 20% to continue general maintenance and reduce the weight of the limbs.

SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES:

National Policy
None

East of England Plan 2008
None

Hertfordshire Structure Plan Review 1991 – 2011
None

Welwyn Hatfield District Plan 2005
GBSP2: Towns and specified settlements
R17: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows
D2: Character and Context
D8: Landscaping

PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS:

None received

REPRESENTATIONS:

The application was advertised by means of neighbour notification and no representations were received.

DISCUSSION:

The two horse chestnuts in question stand directly adjacent to Park Street. They now stand either side of the entrance to a new residential development, making the entrance more notable.

The trees are both very similar in nature, age, stature and condition. They have a reasonable health and are showing a good level of vitality. Both trees have had much historical pruning and many wounds are still showing heartwood or pockets of decay. Both trees have been previously reduced. They have reacted well growing new branches and filling in the crown. T2 has perhaps a little more re-growth.

Currently the trees are not exhibiting signs or symptoms of bleeding canker.

The application is to deadwood and crown reduce the tree by 20%. Deadwooding is exempt from application. A 20% crown reduction is relatively light and is therefore reasonable.

Within the management proposals by RA Pakenham, dated 14 October 2010 are two points of interest. Firstly, as part of the aerial inspection of the trees it notes draining cavities. No clarification has been given as to why the cavities need draining. It was once commonly accepted that draining cavities was the best thing to aid the tree but now the opposite stance is taken. Draining cavities unless it was to measure the extent of decay or the remaining sound would not be condoned. No permission has been given to drill an angled hole to allow the cavity to weep.

Secondly, the possible need for cable bracing has also been noted. Cable bracing should always be used cautiously. Although invasive bracing still appears in BS3998:1989 Recommendations for Tree Work it is often thought of as an outdated system which should not be used. No permission has been given to drill holes into the tree to install a bracing system. An external system e.g. Cobra does not require permission under the Tree Preservation Order.

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.

