

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

APPLICATION No:	<u>S6/2011/0723/TP</u>
LOCATION:	40 Park Street, Hatfield
PROPOSAL:	<u>Fell two horse chestnut trees covered by TPO343.</u>

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: Fell two horse chestnut trees due to their poor condition.

SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES:

National Policy

East of England Plan 2008

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 two representations were received. One response objects to the application as they would rather see the tree pruned rather than felled. One response supports the application as the resident feels that the trees are dangerous.

DISCUSSION:

Both trees stand directly adjacent to the road frontage of Park Street and either side of an entrance way to a recent housing development. Both trees are similar in nature with numerous, historical, massive wounds and heavy pruning. Areas of decay can be seen on the stem and primary branches.

T2 has been previous cable braced and has dieback in the crown. A decayed fungal fruiting body was observed in the main stem, the report submitted as part of the application indicates this was Dryads saddle.

T1 is slightly better health but has very heavy vertical growths from the primary branches.

The representation which supports the proposal is based on the residents conversations with a tree surgeon who was to undertake pruning works earlier in the year and stopped due to the poor condition of the trees.

The representation which objects to the proposal is under the impression that the trees are being removed as they are too large and blocking someone's light or view. The trees are not being removed for these reasons and pruning the trees will not fully resolve the structural issues of the trees.

Deadwood is an important feature within woods as so much wildlife lives and thrives on it and in it. Caution should be taken with trees which have horizontal or vertical cracks greater than pencil thickness or with large plates of peeling bark, as these are ideal roosts for bats.

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 Two Quercus, Castanea, Liquidamber, Liriodendron or Platanus (with minimum girth of 8-10cm circumference) shall be planted in a similar location in the next available planting season (November-February) unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

REASON: Replacement trees are required given the current amenity value of the tree(s) and consent is only given for the works because of the poor structural condition of 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, GBSP2, R17, D2, D8), 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 14th April 2011

Informative:

1. Deadwood is an important feature within woods as so much wildlife lives and thrives on it and in it. Caution should be taken with trees which have horizontal or vertical cracks greater than pencil thickness or with large plates of peeling bark, as these are ideal roosts for bats. Bats are a European Protected Species. Actions which would comprise an offence under Regulation 41 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 require consent from Natural England prior to any works being undertaken.

Author:.....

Date:...16th June 2011.....