

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

APPLICATION No:	<u>S6/2013/2016/TP</u>
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DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:

Reduce crowns by 25% ash T1 and hornbeam T5, covered by TPO 209.

HISTORY

None.

TOWN/PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS:

None received

REPRESENTATIONS:

One representation has been received which may be summarised as:

- Refer to arboriculturalist. (Not a material consideration).

DISCUSSION:

T5 Ash (T3 on preservation order): This tree is a semi-mature ash tree which stands on the western boundary of the property. The tree shows reasonable health and vitality and no structural problems can be seen. The trees statistics are:

- Height: estimated at 17m
- Crown spread: estimated; south 5.5m; east 5m; north 4m
- Crown lift: estimated 4m but branches sweep down from between estimated 6-8m
- Approximately 0.3m gap between block of flats and crown

T4 Hornbeam: This tree is also within the hedgerow on the western side of the property. The tree appears to have good health and vitality and no apparent structural problems. A large oak tree stands to the south of the tree, slightly reducing the vigour on the southern part of the tree. The trees statistics are:

- Height: estimated at 11m
- Crown spread: estimated; south 3.5m; east 6m; north 4.5m
- Crown lift: 3m
- Approximately 0.75m gap between block of flats and crown

The application is to reduce crown by 25% of both trees. Neither tree has been previously contained, but the crowns are within a short distance of the flats. Confirmation with the applicant is that this refers to a 25% crown volume reduction. This pruning operation on these two trees would be reasonable arboricultural management and would not affect the amenity of the trees.

Conditions –

This 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*)

Informatives are attached to the permission advising the applicant on the best practice for works to trees and protection of wildlife.

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 shall not be started and completed other than in accordance with the approved plans and details: tree location plan received and dated 4 October 2103 unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

REASON: To ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the approved drawings and any changes must be agreed in advance in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

- 3. 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.

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

REASON: To minimise the impact on the tree.

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.*)

DRAWING NUMBERS: Tree location plan received and dated 4 October 2013.

Author:

Date: ...11 November 2013...