

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

<b>APPLICATION No:</b>	<b><u>S6/2013/2034/TP</u></b>
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**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:**

To reduce the crown back to previous pruning points by thinning the poles by up to 30%, crown lift to 3m and trim to clear building by 0.5m of an oak to contain and as general maintenance.

**HISTORY**

S6/2010/2112/TP: Reduce oak by 50% TPO 249 T9 (Granted)

**TOWN/PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

None received

**REPRESENTATIONS:**

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

**DISCUSSION:**

The tree is a mature (for location) oak tree sited with the front garden area of 30 Champion Road, Hatfield. Following the 2010 application, the tree has been managed with a heavy hand, beyond the works applied for, with unskilled tree work, which was not appropriate or best arboricultural management. The tree however shows good health and vitality with much frithy regrowth which has created a tight, rounded crown.

The trees statistics are:

- Height: estimated 8-9m.
- Crown spread: estimated; east 2m (plus 1m between fence and stem); south 3m; north 2.5m.
- Crown lift: 2m over applicants path to rear of property and 2.5m over 28 Champion Road's rear garden.
- Physically encroaches onto 30 Champion Road

The works are a gentle method of containment with balance the needs of the adjacent houses with the reaction of the tree to pruning.

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*)

## **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(s) location plan received and dated 20 September 2013 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 crown thinning, an even density of foliage should be retained throughout a well-spaced and balanced branch structure, which could, if required, provide an adequate framework for a possible future crown reduction. Material should be removed systematically from throughout the tree rather than from the inner crown only. Cutting branches back to the main stem should be avoided, although structurally weak or hazardous branches should be removed if there is no alternative. Uneven thinning or over-thinning increases the probability of branch failure, either by creating gaps in the crown, or by removing shoots and secondary branches from the proximal parts of a branch and leaving twigs and foliage at the tip (this is known as lion-tailing). (*BS 3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations section 7.5*)

2. 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 20 September 2013.

**Author:** .....

**Date:** ...8 November 2013.....