

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

APPLICATION No:	<u>S6/2013/2201/TP</u>
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DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:

To T3 oak crown lift to 5m, to T3 oak crown reduce by linear length 20%, to T2 crown reduce by 25% linear length by TPO 119 for general maintenance and light restriction.

HISTORY

S6/2007/1659/TP: Pruning of dead branches to oak tree T1 and T2 covered by TPO119 (Granted)

TOWN/PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS:

None received

REPRESENTATIONS:

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

DISCUSSION:

Oak tree T2, is a mature oak which stands on the rear boundary of the back garden, abutting the woodland. The tree appears to be in good health and vitality with no apparent structural issues. Its overall form is good and a typical maiden. The trees statistics are:

- Height: >24m
- Crown spread: (all estimated) from T3 7.5m; and south east toward house 9.5m.
- Crown lift: estimated 6m.

Oak tree T3 is a mature oak tree in the back garden of the property. It stands close to the boundary with 2 Hook Lane. The tree appears to be in good health and vitality, with no apparent structural issues. The tree as a whole has a slightly crooked form, due to natural form and some historical branch loss, though this is not significant. The crown appears slightly thinned internally, reducing the pruning opportunities and end loading the secondary and tertiary branches toward the branch ends. The trees statistics are:

- Height: between 18-24m
- Crown spread: (all estimated) to south east toward house 5.5m; to west over approx half house 2's garden; north east toward T2 5m.

The applicant proposes to remove the tertiary frithy growth of the stem of T3. This is reasonable.

They also propose to crown reduce both trees, T3 by 20% and T2 by 25%. This is reasonable arboricultural practice for these particular 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*)

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.

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 photographs received with application dated 18 October 2013 and updated tree location plan dated 13 November 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. 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.

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.*)

Author:

Date: ...13 November 2013...