

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

APPLICATION No:	<u>S6/2013/2435/TP</u>
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DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:

Remove deadwood from walnut T1 and reduce crown height and spread of copper beech T2 by 15% covered by TPO362.

HISTORY

N/a

TOWN/PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS:

None received

REPRESENTATIONS:

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

DISCUSSION:

The works proposed to the walnut tree T1 are exempt from application.

The copper beech, T2, is a large, mature tree, which is sited directly adjacent to a very busy A road. It is a very fine tree, with good form and appears to have good health and vitality. It does not show any significant structural issues nor any symptoms such as fungal fruiting bodies. The graft point at 1.5m has no notable faults. A large, heavy 2nd leader, has developed from a primary branch which originates just above the graft point. This is not unusual for this tree variety and is not currently significant considering the overall health and structural condition of the tree. The tree has only had minor pruning works in the past, such as crown lifting. The trees statistics are:

- Height: estimated at 14m
- Crown spread: measured at cardinal points; N 10m; E 9m; S10m; and W 9m.
- Crown lift 1.5m to 1.7m.

The reason given to reduce the height and spread of the copper beech is to maintain the balance and shape of the tree. The tree has a well balance and shaped crown with no branches extending beyond the natural profile of the crown nor is the profile ragged.

Crown reductions are most commonly used to contain trees or reduce the biomechanical stress when a fault is noted with the structural integrity of the tree. This tree does not require containment as it is sited in a grassy area.

Beech are known to be poor at compartmentalisation. Any significant pruning works, which would create numerous pruning wounds of varying sizes, some greater than 5cm, should be considered very carefully before undertaking. With no apparent significant faults apparent with the health or structure of the tree, there would appear to be no direct reason for the works.

A crown reduction would reduce the amenity value of this tree.

RECOMMENDATION: REFUSAL

- 1. The proposed works would have a detrimental effect on the amenity value of the tree and significantly impact on the local environment and its enjoyment by the public. The proposal is therefore contrary to section 198(1) of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

- 2. The proposed works are inappropriate for the tree and do not comply with British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations. No justification has been given as to why the works, for which consent is being sought, deviate from best arboricultural practice. The proposed works would adversely affect the structural integrity and sustained growth of the tree and is therefore contrary to section 198(1) of The Town and Country planning Act 1990.

REFUSED DRAWING NUMBERS: Drawing received and dated 14 November 2013.

Author:

Date:..... 8 January 2014 ...