

**WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - PLANNING, PUBLIC PROTECTION AND GOVERNANCE**

DELEGATED APPLICATION

Application No: 6/2017/1106/TPO
Location: 61A Pine Grove Brookmans Park Hatfield AL9 7BL
Proposal: Crown reduce two oak trees by 20% and fell a dying oak tree covered by TPO 170 (1992)
Officer: Miss M Hill
Recommendation: Granted

Context	
Relevant history	<p>Planning</p> <p>Application Number: S6/1999/0338/TP Decision: Granted Decision Date: 09 August 1999</p> <p>Proposal: Reduce and reshape 6 Oak trees in G1 by 30% and reduce Oak tree T9 by 25%, covered by TPO 170</p> <p>Application Number: S6/2001/1224/TP Decision: Granted Decision Date: 05 November 2001</p> <p>Proposal: FELL TWO SCOTS PINE (T3 AND T5) AND PRUNING OF BRANCH AND REMOVAL OF DEAD WOOD TO TWO SCOTS PINE (T1 AND T2) COVERED BY TPO 170</p> <p>Application Number: S6/2005/1134/TP Decision: Part Approved / Part Refused Decision Date: 18 November 2005</p> <p>Proposal: REDUCE CROWN OF TREES T1 & T2, COVERED BY TPO 226, BY 30%</p> <p>Application Number: S6/2005/1130/TP Decision: Part Approved / Part Refused Decision Date: 24 November 2005</p> <p>Proposal: WORKS TO OAK TREES COVERED BY TPO 170</p> <p>Application Number: S6/2007/0908/TP Decision: Refused Decision Date: 25 July 2007</p> <p>Proposal: REMOVAL OF OAK TREE T2 AND 30% REDUCTION OF OAK TREE T4 BOTH COVERED BY TPO 226</p> <p>Application Number: S6/2008/0993/TP Decision: Part Approved / Part</p>

	<p>Refused Decision Date: 20 August 2008</p> <p>Proposal: CROWN LIFT T1 CYPRESS BY 2M AND THIN BY 20% AND CROWN LIFT T2 OAK BY 2M AND REDUCE CROWN BY 2M COVERED BY TPO 226 AND CROWN REDUCE TO PREVIOUS PRUNING POINTS 4 OAK TREES COVERED BY TPO 170 G1</p> <p>Application Number: S6/2010/2238/TP Decision: Refused Decision Date: 02 December 2010</p> <p>Proposal: Fell 3 Oaks and 1 Monteray Cypress covered by TPO 170 and TPO 226</p> <p>Application Number: S6/2012/1525/TP Decision: Granted Decision Date: 10 September 2012</p> <p>Proposal: Works to trees covered by TPO 170 (see schedule)</p> <p>Application Number: S6/2014/1201/TP Decision: Granted Decision Date: 23 July 2014</p> <p>Proposal: Works to tree (T1) Scots Pine - Lift overhanging and deadwood, (T2) Scots Pine - deadwood only covered by TPO 433 and (T6 & 7) Scots Pine - deadwood only covered by TPO 170</p>
Main Issues	
Appropriateness of the works in relation to the tree(s)	<p>All three application trees stand within a group of four oaks, located centrally within the rear garden. The original application was to crown reduce three oak trees. Following a site visit this proposal was amended to crown reduce two oak trees by 20% and fell a dying oak tree.</p> <p>It was confirmed on site with the applicant which trees were included in the proposal. All tree numbers run consecutively from right to left with the back to the house.</p> <p>T1, oak (stands on the far right of the group) is a mature oak tree. It grows in very close proximity to T2. The tree shows reasonable health and good vitality. The tree has been previously crown reduced. The crown radius (on the north west side) is 6m, which includes 1.5m of regrowth.</p> <p>T2 is a mature oak. It grows in close proximity to T1. The crown shows reasonable health and vitality. The structural condition is fair with historical damage to the stem, from ground level to 1.4m and approximately 30cm wide on south side and 30cm by 20cm on the north side. There is some resulting decay and bark delamination in other areas, these issues are not currently significant whilst the crown is contained. This tree has also been previously crown reduced and now has similar dimensions to T1.</p> <p>T3 is an oak and is not part of this proposal.</p> <p>T4, an oak is a mature tree. It has very few remaining leaves and a large amount of dead primary limbs. There is extensive historical damage on the stem and root crown. This tree is in the advanced stages of decline and no treatment can halt or reverse this decline.</p>

	<p>The proposal is to crown reduce T1 and T2 and fell T4. T3 is not part of this application.</p> <p>North Mymms Parish Council responded to the consultation but with 'no comment'.</p> <p>The crown reductions by 20% are reasonable management of these trees. The pruning works should roughly take the radius back to the previous pruning points.</p> <p>The removal of T4, the dying oak, is reasonable given the poor health of the tree. The applicant is aware that they will have to plant a replacement tree and this has been included as a condition of approval.</p>
Conclusion	
<p>The proposal to crown reduce two oak trees is reasonable arboricultural management and will not detrimentally harm the tree's amenity or health. The proposal to remove one oak tree is reasonable given the trees poor health.</p>	

Conditions:

1. 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.

2. The crown reductions must only be carried out during winter (November to February, inclusive) or high summer (July to August inclusive) and at no other time.

REASON: To maintain the character and appearance of the area in accordance with Policies GBSP2, D1, D2, D8 and R17 of the Welwyn Hatfield District Plan 2005.

3. The crown reduction by 20% shall be to suitable fork/branch unions and create a pruning wound no larger than 10cm in diameter.

REASON: To ensure the preservation of the amenity value and health of the tree.

4. One oak, hornbeam, liquidamber, cherry or maple (with minimum girth of 8-10cm circumference) shall be planted in a similar location in the next available planting season (November-February) in accordance with the British Standard 8545:2014 (Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations) following the works hereby approved.

REASON: A replacement tree is required given the current amenity value of the tree.

DRAWING NUMBERS

5. The development/works shall not be started and completed other than in accordance with the approved plans and details:

**Plan
Number**

**Revision
Number**

Details

Received Date

REASON: To ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the approved plans and details.

Informatives:

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.).

Determined By:

Mrs L Hughes
5 September 2017