

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

APPLICATION No:	<u>N6/2013/1549TP</u>
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DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:

Crown thin one oak and nine hornbeams by 20%
Crown thin one oak by 20%

HISTORY

N6/2009/1857/TP - Crown lift hornbeam tree (T10) by 20%, crown lift oak tree (T11) and thin by 20% and thin two hornbeam trees (T12 & T13) by 20% A(G) 30/10/2009

N6/2009/2112/TC – Reduce two cherry trees (T1 & T2) by 20%, reduce two oak trees (T3 & T4) by 20% hornbeam tree (T5) cut back and thin by 20% Fell oak tree (T6) and crown lift hornbeam trees (T7, T8 & T9) by 4m and cut back leggy limbs
APRE 14/10/2009

TOWN/PARISH COUNCIL COMMENTS:

None received

REPRESENTATIONS:

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

DISCUSSION:

The trees in question are located within the curtilage of 19 Scholars Mews Welwyn Garden City. The trees are woodland species and would have been part of the adjacent woodland site (Sherrardspark Wood). The trees are a key feature of the area and part of the local character in this location. The trees are prominent to the public both within Scholars Mews and the public footpath which runs to the rear of the property. The trees are protected by Tree Preservation Orders 437 and 252.

T6 marked on the plan supplied is a mature oak approximately 9m tall. This tree is located within the rear garden close to the property. At the time of inspection the tree appeared in good health and condition. This tree has been pruned on a regular basis to contain its size and prevent encroachment upon the building. The proposed work within the application is to thin the crown of the tree by 20%. Given the past management of this tree the work is considered appropriate.

T3, T4, T5, T7, T8, T9, T10, T12 and T13 are mature hornbeams that run along the boundary of the rear garden. At the time of inspection the trees appeared in good health and condition. The trees have been significantly pruned in the past to contain their size. They have responded well to this past management and have good vitality. The applicant wishes to crown thin these trees by 20%. Given the past management and the trees' good reaction to the past work this is considered appropriate.

T11 is mature oak growing within the front garden. At the time inspection the tree appeared in good health and condition. This tree has been pruned considerable in

the past due to its proximity to the property. One damaged branch was noted within the crown of the tree. The applicant wishes to crown thin the tree by 15% and remove the damaged branch. This work is considered appropriate given its past management.

It is considered that the proposed works will not have an effect on the amenity value of health 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. Pruning 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 Drawing as shown on Question 7 of the application form received and dated 17 July 2013

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 (June to September, inclusive) and at no other time.

REASON: To minimise the impact on the tree.

Informative:

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)

DRAWING NUMBERS: Drawing as shown on Question 7 of the application form received and dated 17 July 2013

Author:

Date: 9 September 2013