

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

<b>APPLICATION No:</b>	<b><u>N6/2014/1773/TP</u></b>
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**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:**

Crown reduce hornbeam tree by 25%.

**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 4 METRES AND CUT BACK LEGGY LIMBS - APRE 14/10/2009

N6/2013/1549/TP-Crown thin Oak T6 covered by TPO 437 and Hornbeams T3, T4, T5, T7, T8, T9, T10, T12, T13 by 20%. Crown thin by 15% and remove damaged branch of Oak covered by TPO252 A(G) 11/09/2013

**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 rear garden of 19 Scholars Mews Welwyn Garden City. The cherries a small group of trees located along the southern boundary. All are leggy trees that are sparse in the crown. It is considered that these tree offer little value to the character of the area and are likely decline further over time. In light of the above there is no objection to their removal. Replacement planting is not required as there is sufficient other vegetation in this area.

The hornbeam is a multi-stem tree approximately 10m tall. The tree has had its crown reduced in the past to abate the encroachment upon the adjacent property. Since last being pruned the tree has put on significant growth and is now touching the building. The applicant wishes to reduce the crown of the tree by 25% (back to the previous pruning points). Given the encroachment upon the building there is no objection to the proposed works.

It is recommended that a condition be attached stating the time of year when the work should 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). The specified times of year for pruning have been stated inline with the above in order to minimise the impact in 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. 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*)

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 shall 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 10 June 2014 unless otherwise agreed in writing by the council.

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 council.

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 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:** ... 12 August 2014 ...