

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...Francis Mabbett.....

**APPLICATION
REFERENCE**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF
DEVELOPMENT**

APPLICATION SITE

26/00034/TPO

T1: Ash - Pollard at 6m from ground
level removing approx 6m of the crown

60 Old North Road
Royston
Hertfordshire
SG8 5EP

Submitted Plan Nos

Location plan Photo

1.0 Policies

2.0 **Site History**

None relevant.

3.0 **Representations**

None

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

The Ash subject of this application is located at the front of the property to the SE corner of the site adjacent to Old North Road. The site is not within a Conservation Area, but the tree is T1 of TPO/191. The tree is clearly visible from the public realm and is visible to surrounding properties.

4.2 **Proposal & Reason**

T1: Ash - Pollard at 6m from ground level removing approx. 6m of the crown

4.3 **Key Issues**

The key issue for consideration is whether the reason provided justifies proposed works and the appropriateness of these given that the tree is protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

4.3.1 The reason provided to justify the works was “*due to severe die back and high target area below*”

4.3.2 T1 is a mature Ash tree located in a prominent position, but showing signs of decline, with the top 25% of the crown dead or dying back. Upon closer inspection a fungal fruiting body of *Inonotus hispidus* was observed at approx. 6m on the S side of the main stem. The presence of this fungus on Ash is particularly significant as it weakens the wood in this species at an early stage and often indicates that breakage of the affected branch or trunk could be imminent (LONSDALE, 1999). A reduction by 6m would reduce the risk of stem failure. Strong epicormic growth has been produced lower in the crown and could maintain the life of the tree, all be it at a smaller size, for some years to come.

4.4 **Conclusion**

4.4.1 The poor condition and the presence of the fungal pathogen on this species means a high chance of limb or stem failure exists with this tree, that is positioned very close to a busy main road. Therefore, refusal of this application would be hard to justify.

4.5 **Alternative Options**

4.5.1 None applicable

4.6 **Pre-Commencement Conditions**

4.6.1 None applicable

5.0 **Recommendation**

5.1 That planning permission be **GRANTED** subject to the following conditions:-

1. The works shall be undertaken only by a competent and suitably qualified arboricultural contractor or tree surgeon as capable of carrying them out to an acceptable standard.

Reason: In order that the works are undertaken by a suitably qualified contractor.

2. The works shall be carried out to conform to British Standard 3998 - Recommendations for Tree Work and in a manner so as to ensure that the natural and aesthetic appearance of the trees are maintained to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In order to ensure that the works are undertaken to an acceptable standard which will not harm the health of the tree(s).

Signed  Ben Glover	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer	
Date: 23 January 2026	