

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
26/01019/TPO	2 x Hornbeam - Reduce by 3.5m height	2 Church Gardens Stevenage Road Knebworth Hertfordshire SG3 6AR

Submitted Plan Nos

1.0 Policies

2.0 **Site History**

None relevant.

3.0 **Representations**

None

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

Hornbeams (applicant's plan email 29/04/2026) subject of this application is located at the front of the property close to the driveway, to east of the site. The trees are partly visible to the public realm. The site is not within a Conservation Area, but the trees are included in G1 of TPO/140.

4.2 **Proposal & Reason**

2 x Hornbeam - Reduce by 3.5m height

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 reasons provided to justify the works were "*To match the neighbouring trees*"

4.3.2 The Hornbeams have grown up to create trees of slender form with overlong vertical limbs. Reducing to match a neighbouring tree is not a justifiable reason to carry out works to a TPO tree, however the benefit of a reduction to this tree can be seen and would reduce the risk of breakage of over long stems, that have become subject to 'end-loading' due to an uneven distribution of secondary branches. Exposure to wind-loading has also increased with the recent reduction of the neighbouring tree. The proposed works would improve the form of the trees and should encourage growth further back within the crown, that would enhance amenity of G2 of the TPO/050. The works are unlikely to be detrimental to the health of the tree and similar previous works to the adjacent tree have been approved.

4.4 **Conclusion**

4.4.1 The proposed works are not unreasonable and may serve to improve the amenity of the tree. Therefore, consent should be granted.

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 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).

2. 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.

Signed  Naomi Reynard	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 15 May 2026	