

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...William Thompson.....

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
24/02721/TCA	T002: Sycamore - Hard prune back from street lighting. T010: 3x Lime - Remove epicormic growth. T013, T014, T015, T016, T017, T018: Cherry Plum - Fell to ground level.	Letchworth Police Station Nevels Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4ER

Submitted Plan Nos

Proposed works and location plan

1.0 Policies

1.0 **Planning Practice Guidance**

1.1 Tree Preservation Orders and Trees in Conservation Areas 2014

1.2 Hertfordshire County Council Tree and Woodland Strategy 2022–2030

1.3 North Hertfordshire Council Tree Strategy 2017

2.0 **Relevant Site History**

2.1 None relevant

3.0 **Representations**

3.1 Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation - None

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

4.1.1 The application site is located at the Letchworth Police Station and is within the Letchworth Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

4.2.1 T002: Sycamore - Hard prune back from street lighting. T010: 3x Lime - Remove epicormic growth. T013, T014, T015, T016, T017, T018: Cherry Plum - Fell to ground level.

4.3 **Key Issues**

4.3.1 The key issues in determining this application are: the amenity value of the trees; the impact of the proposed work on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area; any justification for the proposed work and, whether, taking full account of the above, it would be expedient and in the public interest to make a Tree Preservation Order.

4.3.2 The trees are identified on the submitted location plan and are located around the perimeter of the station.

4.3.3 The trees are mature and appear visually healthy and the applicant has not submitted any arboricultural report to dispute this.

4.3.4 T010 and T013-T018 are visible from the street scene, so contribute to towards the character and appearance of the Letchworth Conservation Area. T002 is less visible from the street scene; so, contribute little to the character and appearance of the Letchworth Conservation Area and is considered to have low public amenity value

- 4.3.5 The works to T002 and T010 are for maintenance so will not affect public amenity.
- 4.3.6 The works to T013-T018 are to fell; however, other trees around them are being retained which protects the character and appearance of the Letchworth Conservation Area. Additionally, the trees are not deemed to be worthy enough specimens to be considered for a TPO as they are small, leaning and have ever-present fungi *Phellinus pomaceus*. Moreover, there are plans to replant with a species of small tree after felling.
- 4.3.7 Due to the above reasons, I do not consider the trees to be of high enough public amenity value to warrant a Tree Preservation Order.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 The proposed work to the trees would not cause such harm to the character and appearance of the Letchworth Conservation Area as to overcome the justification for the work.

5.0 **Recommendation**

- 5.1 **NO OBJECTION** to the proposed work.

Signed  Sarah Kasparian	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 8 January 2025	