

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
26/01341/TCA	T1: Robinia - Reduce crown by 2-3m. T2: Lime - Fell to near ground level. T3: Plum - Fell to near ground level.	Centenary House Grammar School Walk Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1JN

Submitted Plan Nos

2.0 **Site History**

Various tree works applications at the site with the most recent :

18/00774/TCA - T1 Alanthus - Crown lift to 4m. T2 ·& T4 Lime - Fell. T3 Laburnham - Fell. T5 Acacia - Crown lift by 5m. T6 ·& T7 Lime - Reduce crown by 30%. – No objection

20/00843/TCA - T18 Lime - Fell to ground level – No objection

21/01819/TCA - T16 Tulip - Fell to ground level. T18 Lime - Fell– No objection

3.0 **Representations**

None received.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site**

T1: Robinia (applicants plan) is located on the SE boundary at the front of the site overhanging Grammar School Walk, while T2 Lime and T3 Plum (applicants plan) are located at the rear of the property on the NE boundary. The trees are visible to the public realm. The site is within the Hitchin Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

T1: Robinia - Reduce crown by 2-3m. T2: Lime - Fell to near ground level. T3: Plum - Fell to near ground level.

4.3 **Key Issues**

The key issue for consideration is the impact that the proposed works would have on the character, appearance and amenity of the Conservation Area.

4.3.1 The trees are visible to the public realm.

4.3.2 T1 Robinia is a mature tree with high amenity value and in a highly prominent location. The crown spreads out over Grammar School Walk and the property car park. The tree appears to have good vitality and although a reduction will have a negative impact on the amenity of the tree it is anticipated to be only short-term. The works are necessary to maintain the trees size and prevent any conflict with vehicles using the adjacent road and car park.

4.3.3 T2 Lime is the remaining 4-5m of stem of a large mature Lime that although showing excessive epicormic growth is much reduced in size and amenity value from its former self. The tree grows through a vehicle shelter which in part obscures the lower part of

the tree. Its removal is likely to only have minimal impact on the surrounding area. The stump of another similar Lime specimen already removed is within a few metres.

- 4.3.4 The Plum tree is barely visible to the public realm and is growing close to the adjacent wall, its removal will have no significant impact to the amenity of the area.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 The proposed works would not result in any unacceptable adverse impact upon the character, appearance and amenity of the Hitchin Conservation Area.

4.5 **Alternative Options**

- 4.5.1 None applicable

4.6 **Pre-Commencement Conditions**

- 4.6.1 None applicable

5.0 **Recommendation**

- 5.1 No objection.

Signed Intan Keen Determining Officer	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Date: 19 June 2026	