

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...Vicki Wood.....

**APPLICATION
REFERENCE**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF
DEVELOPMENT**

APPLICATION SITE

26/00009/TCA

Plum - Fell

78 High Street

Barkway

Royston

Hertfordshire

SG8 8EF

Submitted Plan Nos

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.

3.0 **Representations**

3.1 N/A

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

4.1.1 The site is located on the west side of the High Street and is within the Barkway Conservation Area. The Plum tree is positioned in the rear garden of the property close to the party boundary with the neighbouring property to the north known as Dashwood Barn.

4.2 **Proposal**

4.2.1 Permission is sought to undertake the following works:

☐ Plum – Fell.

4.3 **Key Issues**

4.3.1 The key issues in determining this application are the amenity value of the tree; 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 tree is identified on the submitted plan and the application is accompanied by a photograph of the tree.

4.3.3 The application proposes felling of the tree due to its age, poor form, congested crown and limited fruit production. It is accepted that the tree is mature, and whilst careful pruning could help to retain the tree and maintain a level of fruit production, its proximity to the boundary of the neighbouring property and outbuildings, given both properties are listed buildings, suggests that felling should not be prevented. The applicant proposes the planting of a replacement tree with an ornamental tree; however, a small native tree is the preferred option.

4.3.4 Given the limited amenity value of the tree, I do not consider a Tree Preservation Order to be appropriate.

4.4 **Conclusion**

4.4.1 The proposed works appear reasonable and justified. As such, I am satisfied that the work would not cause such harm to the character and appearance of the Barkway Conservation Area as to overcome the justification for the work.

5.0 **Recommendation**

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

Informative/s:

1. In an effort to combat climate change, North Hertfordshire Council advises that one native tree be planted within the rear garden of the property following felling of a Plum tree. Please make sure you are familiar with the planting season which runs from 1st November until 31st March, this will give the tree the best chance of survival.

Signed  Paul Chaston Determining Officer	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Date: 8 January 2026	