

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

**APPLICATION
REFERENCE**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF
DEVELOPMENT**

APPLICATION SITE

24/02030/TCA

Pine - Remove. Yew hedge - Remove

113 Wilbury Road

Letchworth Garden City

Hertfordshire

SG6 4JQ

Submitted Plan Nos

Location plan Photos

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 **LGCHF** – None received.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

4.1.1 The site where the tree works are proposed is located on the southern side of Wilbury Road and is within the Letchworth Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

4.2.1 Permission is sought to undertake the following works: Pine - Remove. Yew hedge – Remove.

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 works on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area; any justification for the proposed works 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 location plan as T1 and is positioned in the rear garden of the property. The application is accompanied by a Tree Report prepared by Waterman Tree Co. dated 5th September 2024 which states that the Pine tree is covered in ivy with a 'V' union but does not offer advice on action needed. Having viewed the submitted photographs the tree appears in poor health, and I would not raise an objection to its felling. The application also refers to the removal of a small Yew hedge of which there is limited information other than a photograph which shows a small section of a Yew hedge. Given there is no protection afforded to residential hedges, I would not resist its removal. Notwithstanding this, the removal of the Pine tree is considered justified and would not result in significant harm to the character and appearance of the Letchworth Conservation Area.

4.3.3 I am satisfied that the Pine tree is not worthy of further protection by way of a Tree Preservation Order.

4.4 **Conclusion**

4.4.1 The proposed felling of the Pine tree and removal of a small section of Yew hedge 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.

Informative/s:

- 1. In an effort to combat climate change, North Hertfordshire Council advises that a native tree be planted within the rear garden of the property following removal of the Pine 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  Tom Rea	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 14 October 2024	