

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

**APPLICATION
REFERENCE**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF
DEVELOPMENT**

APPLICATION SITE

24/01427/TCA

T1. Silver Birch - Fell to ground level. T2.
Silver Birch - Fell to ground level.

18 Sollershott West
Letchworth Garden City
Hertfordshire
SG6 3PX

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 Various applications for tree works on the site though all linked to the TPO which applies to part of the rear garden of the application site.

3.0 **Representations**

3.1 LGCHF – None received.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

4.1.1 Both Silver Birch trees proposed for felling are located in the front garden of the application site and within the Letchworth Conservation Area. T1 is located to the west of the vehicular access to the property though sited to the rear of existing mature boundary planting. T2 is located alongside the party boundary with the neighbouring property to the west no.16 Sollershott West.

4.2 **Proposal**

4.2.1 Permission is sought to undertake the following works: Fell 2 x Silver Birch trees 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 as T1 and T2 on the submitted location plan and the application is accompanied by photographs of the trees.

4.3.3 It is evident by the distorted growths on the trees that are suffering from an infestation of gall wasp which has caused significant damage to the health of both trees. Although, if caught early such growths can be removed, and the affected tree(s) treated, however, it is clear that this is not the case with these two trees and that the gall wasp has taken over the trees affecting their longer-term health and stability.

4.3.4 Both trees are mature and important in terms of private amenity value and in part public amenity value given their presence in the streetscene and the contribution the frontage area makes to the character and appearance of the Letchworth Conservation Area. Notwithstanding this, the felling of both trees is considered justified and would not impact the Letchworth Conservation Area to any significant extent.

4.3.5 Given the circumstances a TPO would not be appropriate.

4.4 **Conclusion**

4.4.1 The proposed felling of 2 x Silver Birch 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.

Informative/s:

1. In an effort to combat climate change, North Hertfordshire Council advises that 2 x native trees be planted within the front garden of the property following removal of the 2 x Silver Birch trees. Please make sure you are familiar with the planting season which runs from 1st November until 31st March, this will give the trees the best chance of survival.

Signed  Melissa Tyler	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 30 July 2024	