

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

**APPLICATION
REFERENCE**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF
DEVELOPMENT**

APPLICATION SITE

24/02540/TCA

T1: Walnut - Reduce by 2.5m in height and 2m on lateral branches. T2: Weeping Willow -Reduce by 2m. T3: Hornbeam - Reduce height by 3m and reduce by 2m on lateral branches to balance.

509 Broadway
Letchworth Garden City
Hertfordshire
SG6 3PT

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**

90/01491/1TCA - Removal of 3 large branches of walnut tree. No objection.

97/01222/1TCA - Felling of Norway Spruce tree in rear garden. No objection.

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 comprises of a residential dwellinghouse located on the west side of Broadway and within the Letchworth Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

4.2.1 Permission is sought to undertake the following works:

T1: Walnut - Reduce by 2.5m in height and 2m on lateral branches.

T2: Weeping Willow -Reduce by 2m.

T3: Hornbeam - Reduce height by 3m and reduce by 2m on lateral branches to balance.

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 site plan.

4.3.3 Trees T1 and T2 are located in the rear garden with tree T3 located in the front garden alongside the party boundary with the neighbouring property to the north known as no.507 Broadway. T3, a Hornbeam, is a large, mature specimen which appears visually healthy. The direction of growth of the tree means that it angles over the driveway and requires management. The works proposed appear reasonable and would maintain the amenity value of the tree. T2, a Weeping Willow is also a mature specimen which appear visually healthy. The extensive crown spread of this tree is vast, and a reduction as proposed would allow the tree the space it requires but also allow the garden beneath the ability to gain more natural light. T1, a Walnut, is also a mature specimen and in visually good health. The works proposed would allow the tree to continue to thrive.

4.3.4 The works would not harm the amenity value of the trees neither would they harm the character and appearance of the Letchworth Conservation Area and area considered acceptable.

4.3.5 There would appear not to be any immediate threat to the trees and therefore there is no evidence to suggest further protection is needed by way of a Tree Preservation Order.

4.4 **Conclusion**

4.4.1 The proposed works to the trees would not harm their amenity value to a significant degree. As such, the work would not cause such harm to the character and appearance of the Letchworth Conservation Area as to overcome the justification for the work.

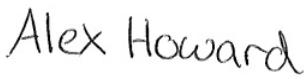
5.0 **Recommendation**

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

5.2 Informative added re: timing of works to the Walnut tree.

Informative/s:

1. The pruning of Walnut trees should only be carried out during the summer months (June to September, inclusive) and at no other time. This is ensure minimal impact on the health of the tree as pruning whilst the sap is rising or during dormancy causes the cut surfaces to bleed profusely which prevents healing of the wounds created, leading to decay.

Signed  Alex Howard Determining Officer	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Date: 10 December 2024	