

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

**APPLICATION
REFERENCE**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF
DEVELOPMENT**

APPLICATION SITE

25/00762/TCA

T6: Purple Crab Apple - Dismantle to
Ground Level

Land On
Highover Road
Letchworth Garden City
Hertfordshire

Submitted Plan Nos

Location plan

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 12/01935/1TCA - Crown lift four Crab Apple trees (T000643, T000650, T000620 and T000621 on plan) 2.5 metres over footpath and 5.5 metres over road. Reduce three Crab Apple trees (T000638, T000630 and T000634 on plan) by up to 3 metres to clear buildings. Prune one Crab Apple tree (T000625 on plan) to clear telephone lines. No objection.

3.0 **Representations**

- 3.1 LGCHF – No objection.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

- 4.1.1 The tree is located on an area of amenity land fronting Campfield Way and Highover Road and is within the Letchworth Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

- 4.2.1 Permission is sought to undertake the following works:

T6: Purple Crab Apple - Dismantle to ground level.

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 as T6 on the submitted plan and the application is accompanied by a tree report dated 2 April 2025 which states that the tree is dead and of poor structural condition.
- 4.3.3 The position of the tree on open amenity land and its proximity to overhead cables and footpath means that its condition dictates that it can no longer remain, and that felling is the only option.

4.3.4 Despite the high amenity value of the tree its condition means that it would not be appropriate to suggest further protection by way of a Tree Preservation Order.

4.4 **Conclusion**

4.4.1 The proposed works would offer a degree of harm to the Letchworth Conservation Area however the condition of the tree means that the harm arising from its removal is unavoidable.

5.0 **Recommendation**

5.1 **NO OBJECTION** to the proposed work with Informative to replant with native species.

Informative/s:

1. In an effort to combat climate change, North Hertfordshire Council advises that a native tree with a girth of 8-10 centimetres be planted on the amenity land fronting nos. 2 Highover Road and 21 Campfield Way following removal of the Purple Crab Apple 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.
2. In addition to this approval, and prior to the felling of the tree, you **MUST** make sure you have obtained the written consent of the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation (where applicable).

Signed  Sarah Kasparian	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 22 April 2025	