DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: …Naomi Reynard……

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
18/00080/TCA	T1 Ash - Reduce height by approx 8m. T2 Ash - Reduce by 50% low horizontal limb overhanging public footpath. T3 2 x Cherries - Crown lift to 2m and reduce by 1-2m.	St Marys Church Church Lane Reed Hertfordshire

Submitted Plan Nos

1.0 Policies

2.0 Site History

See Uniform

3.0 Representations

No consultation

4.0 Planning Considerations

4.1 Site and Surroundings

Reed Church is at the end of Church Lane and the trees are in the churchyard.

4.2 Proposal

See above – I have amended the description so it accurately affects the proposed works on the application form – the proposal for T2 Ash is reduce by 50% a low horizontal limb not the whole tree.

4.3 Key Issues

The key issue for consideration is the visual impact the proposed works would have on the amenity of the Conservation Area.

The application sets out the reasons for the removal of the trees as follows.

"1) Ash - Reduce height of tree to approx. 8m (1m. below initial signs of decay). - This tree has major decay within the trunk and upper crown. It appears to start at approx. 9m., on the southern side of the trunk, and is then apparent throughout the crown in the form of woodpecker holes and die-back. The tree is close to the road and within the churchyard

2) Ash - Reduce by 50% (6m.), low horizontal limb overhanging public footpath. Because of its length and the fact that it grows horizontally out from the trunk it is deemed prudent to reduce this limb to reduce the risk of failure, bearing in mind there is a public footpath underneath.

3) Cherries x 2 Crown lift to 2m. and reduce/reshape side branches by 1-2m. - To maintain at a size that befits their position (either side of the main path leading to the church). To aid with the maintenance of the grass and gravestones."

T1 Ash is a very large tree so the proposed works are a real shame, however given that the tree has major decay within the trunk and upper crown I do not recommend that objections are raised to the proposed works and it would not be worthy of protection by a TPO. There are other trees in the churchyard that would be retained.

The works to T2 Ash would be acceptable and appear necessary for health and safety reasons - the amenity value of this large mature tree would be maintained.

The works to T3 - 2 Cherries would be acceptable and the amenity value of these small trees would be retained.

As such I would not raise objections to the works to these trees.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 No objections to works to trees in a Conservation Area.