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| <b>DELEGATED FILE NOTE</b> |
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**CASE OFFICER:** ...Vicki Wood.....

| APPLICATION<br>REFERENCE | BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF<br>DEVELOPMENT                                                                                                      | APPLICATION SITE                                                             |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 24/01689/TCA             | T1 Crab Apple - Reduce crown by 1m.<br>T2 Plum - Reduce crown by 1m and<br>remove mistletoe. T3 Goat Willow -<br>Remove to ground level. | 1 West End<br><br>Ashwell<br><br>Baldock<br><br>Hertfordshire<br><br>SG7 5PH |

**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 **Ashwell Parish Council** – No objection.

## 4.0 **Planning Considerations**

### 4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

- 4.1.1 The site where the tree works are proposed comprises of a two-storey semi-detached grade II listed building within the Ashwell Conservation Area.

### 4.2 **Proposal**

- 4.2.1 Permission is sought to undertake the following works:

T1 Crab Apple - Reduce crown by 1m.  
T2 Plum - Reduce crown by 1m and remove mistletoe.  
T3 Goat Willow - Remove 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 by number on the submitted site plan and all are located within the rear garden of the property which shares its border with Wilson's Lane to the east and neighbouring residential dwellings to the west. T1 and T2 have a large crown spread with T2 being more sporadic and containing a growth of Mistletoe. T3 is sited within close proximity of a greenhouse and develops a wide crown spread. All three trees appear visually healthy. T1 and T2 would benefit from a crown reduction and T2 the removal of the Mistletoe. T3 is not a particularly attractive tree, and neither is it sited in a prominent position. All three trees offer a degree of amenity value being visible from Wilson's Lane, however this is limited. Notwithstanding this, the works to trees T1 and T2 is considered justified in order to maintain their longer-term

management and their continued contribution to the character and appearance of the Ashwell Conservation Area. The felling of T3 would not result in a significant loss visually in terms of amenity value and is acceptable.

- 4.3.3 There would appear not to be any immediate threat to trees T1 and T2 and therefore there is no evidence to suggest further protection is needed by way of a Tree Preservation Order. T3 is not of sufficient quality, nor does it offer a significant contribution towards public amenity value and so a Tree Preservation Order would not be appropriate.

#### 4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 The proposed works to trees T1 and T2 would not harm their amenity value to a significant degree and the loss of T3 is acceptable. As such, the work would not cause such harm to the character and appearance of the Ashwell 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 Goat Willow 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.

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| <div>Signed</div> <div></div> <div>Sarah Kasparian</div> | <div>Development Management<br/>North Hertfordshire District Council<br/>Council Offices<br/>Gernon Road<br/>Letchworth<br/>Herts<br/>SG6 3JF</div> |
| <div>Determining Officer</div> <div>Date: 3 September 2024</div>                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                     |