

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
24/02722/TCA	T004: Beech - Reduce back from building as hard as possible. T007: Elder - Fell to ground level.	Police Station Melbourn Street Royston Hertfordshire SG8 7BZ

Submitted Plan Nos

Works and 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 Various applications, full case history on file.

3.0 **Representations**

- 3.1 N/A

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

- 4.1.1 Royston Police Station is located on the north side of Melbourn Street. The footprint of the main building sits forward of the Health Centre located to the north east and is within the Royston Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

- 4.2.1 Permission is sought to undertake the following works:

T004: Beech - Reduce back from building as hard as possible.
T007: Elder - Fell 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 on the submitted location plan.
- 4.3.3 The Beech tree is located to the west of the health centre and overhangs a pathway which leads from the car park to the rear through to Melbourn Street. The tree is a mature specimen and although has heavy ivy coverage which limits any detailed inspection, it appears visually healthy. The proposal to reduce the extent of growth away from the building (health centre) would also allow for light to the pathway. There are various trees along this stretch of land and given the proximity of the tree to the building, the cutting back of the overhang to avoid contact with the building is considered reasonable and justified. The Elder tree is located within a small group of

trees located to the east corner of the frontage of the Police Station and Melbourn Street. All of the trees are of a medium maturity. The tree report submitted with the application states that the Elder is dead advising a recommendation to fell. Given the location of the tree in proximity to the highway this appears reasonable and justified.

4.3.4 The setback position of the Beech tree and screening by the Police Station building; the retention of the remaining trees within the small group of trees to the east corner of the frontage area of the Police Station with Melbourn Street, I am satisfied that the works, including the removal of the Elder tree would not impact on amenity value to any significant extent nor would the works result in harm to the character and appearance of the Royston Conservation Area and is acceptable.

4.3.5 There would appear not to be any immediate threat to the Beech tree 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 Beech tree would not harm its amenity value to a significant degree and given the remaining small group of trees to the frontage of the Police Station I am satisfied that the loss of the Elder tree would not cause such harm to the Royston Conservation Area as to overcome the justification for the work.

4.4.2 Given the other trees within the small group would be retained, I do not consider replanting of a replacement tree following the removal of the Elder would be appropriate.

5.0 **Recommendation**

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

Signed  Tom Rea	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 12 December 2024	

