

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...Francis Mabbett.....

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
26/01201/TCA	Thuja - Remove. Ash - Reduce to previous pollard points.	19 Baldock Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3JX

Submitted Plan Nos

1.0 Policies

2.0 Site History

93/01140/1TCA- Removal of 5 Lawson Cypress and pruning of various Lawson Cypress trees-
No objection

3.0 **Representations**

None received.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site**

Thuja (applicant's plan) is located in the SE corner of the site, while Ash2 (applicant's plan) is located between the garage and south boundary hedge. The Ash tree is highly visible to the public realm, the *Thuja* less so and the site is within the Letchworth Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

Thuja - Remove. Ash - Reduce to previous pollard points.

4.3 **Key Issues**

The key issue for consideration is the impact that the proposed works would have on the character, appearance and amenity of the Conservation Area.

4.3.1 The trees are highly visible to the public realm.

4.3.2 The *Thuja* has been kept small by regular trimming to contain its size. It is close to the property building and is outgrowing the brick planting pit it is positioned in. The tree is likely to cause a future nuisance either by demolishing the planter or by making contact with the building and removal is appropriate action. Being small and only partly visible to the public realm its loss will have minimum effect on the surrounding amenity.

4.3.3 The Ash has been pollarded previously at approx.10m, with 8-10m regrowth present, indicating good vitality within the tree. There has been an adequate period of time since last pruning for the tree to have built up carbohydrate reserves. The proposed works, to reduce to previous pollard points, should not breach barriers against fungal ingress already created by the tree when last pruned and should not be detrimental to the health of the tree, although survival in this species is more likely if at least a few smaller branches are retained. The works will have a negative impact on the amenity of the tree, but pollarding regularly will reduce the area of resulting dysfunctional wood and increase the trees retention span. The tree should respond quickly and amenity restored in the short-term.

4.4 **Conclusion**

4.4.1 The proposed works would not result in any unacceptable adverse impact upon the character, appearance and amenity of the Letchworth Conservation Area.

4.5 **Alternative Options**

- 4.5.1 None applicable
- 4.6 **Pre-Commencement Conditions**
- 4.6.1 None applicable
- 5.0 **Recommendation**
- 5.1 No objection.

Signed  Naomi Reynard	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 11 June 2026	

