

To: North Herts District Council

From: 5 Highbury Road, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9RW

Date: 5th February 2026

Subject: Justification for Proposed Works to Tree(s) at 5 Highbury Road, Hitchin, Herts, SG4 9RW

1. Identification of Tree(s) and Description of Works;

- Location: See attached garden design plan for locations of trees.
- Species: Viburnum tinus 'Eve Price' x 2, Cotinus Coggygria x 1 and Prunus domestica (T02) x 1.
- Proposed Work: Fell to ground level

2. Detailed Reasons for Removal/Works;

Viburnum tinus 'Eve Price' x 2

- Safety Hazard:

Evidence of disease - extensive browning of leaves.

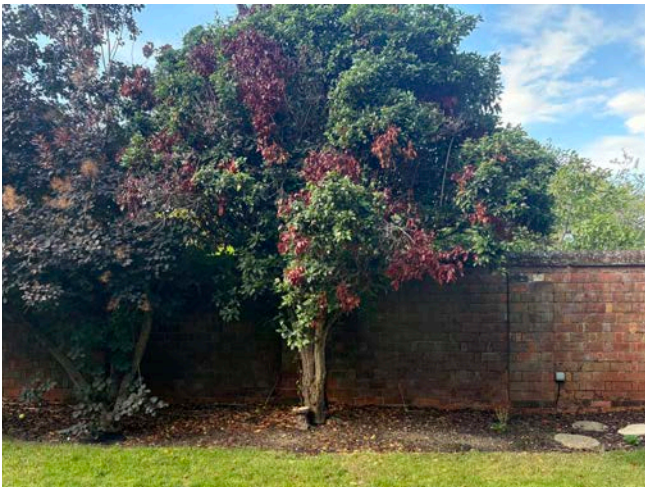
Evidence: See attached photos

- Amenity/Environmental Concerns:

The two mature Viburnum trees/shrubs are close together and no longer appear to be in peak health. This, combined with their maturity and evident congestion would suggest that they are prone to disease due to the lack of space and air flow. These trees are at maturity and it is questionable as to whether they will thrive going forward.

These trees are no longer aesthetically pleasing and no longer fit the proposed landscaping design. We will replace these trees with new, healthy trees that attract wildlife into the garden, with the aim of maintaining the existing screening and Privacy.

There is the potential to pass disease to new plants/trees when they are planted.



Cotinus coggygria x 1

- This shrub is overgrown and whilst it is aesthetically pleasing, it is planted too close to the two neighbouring Viburnum. This may have contributed to the congestion and the evident disease of the Viburnum.

Amenity/Environmental Concerns:

- There is the potential to pass disease to other plants when they are planted. No longer fits the proposed landscape design.

Prunus domestica (T02) x 1

- Safety Hazard:

Evidence of disease (split trunk - see photo)

Evidence: See attached photos

- Amenity/Environmental Concerns:

The *Prunus domestica* has been inspected by an Arboriculturalist and has been noted as 'Over Mature' (see attached Arboricultural Report) which would suggest that is potentially near the end of it's life. There is evidence of significant damage to it's trunk rendering it a hazard in high winds.

The damage to the trunk could be caused by Canker, in which case, this could spread to other nearby trees.

Whilst this tree is aesthetically pleasing and of value to wildlife, it does not fit with the new landscape design and we have reason to believe that it may not last for many more years. We plan to replace the tree with a native Crab Apple, *Malus Red Obelisk* ('Dvp Obel') in the position shown on the Landscape Plan. This replacement tree would be healthy and would bear fruit, attracting wildlife.



3. Mitigation and Replacement Proposals

- We intend to replace the *Prunus domestica* with a native *Malus* 'Red Obelisk', at 160cms height, which would attract wildlife as shown on plans. To retain the screening element, we intend on planting 10 pleached *Prunus lusitanica* along the wall boundary on the right hand side of the garden, as shown on plans.

- All of these trees will come from reputable trade nurseries and plant passports will be supplied.
- On the right hand side of the garden we intend to replace the Viburnum with Sorbus aria 'Lutescens' x 2 and the Cotinus with an evergreen Magnolia grandiflora.

4. Supporting Documents;

- Proposed design plan showing location of existing trees, boundaries, and properties.
- Photographs of the tree(s) and any damage.
- Arborist's report.

Thank you for your attention to these requests