

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

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

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
26/01591/TCA	T1: Silver Birch - Fell to ground level. T2: Medlar - Fell to ground level. T3: Cork Screw Hazel - Fell to ground level. T4: Sycamore - Reduce in height by 4- 5m and shape and balance the remainder of the crown.	Spring House 7 High Street Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5NL

Submitted Plan Nos

2.0 **Site History**

Various tree works applications at the site the most recent:

22/02580/TCA -Mature Ash - Reduce two lowest limbs over property side by 3m to suitable growth points. 2x Lime - Crown lift to 5m – No objection

26/01299/TCA T1: Silver Birch - Fell to ground level. T2: Medlar - Fell to ground level. T3: Cork Screw Hazel - Fell to ground level. - No objection

3.0 **Representations**

Ashwell Parish Council accept the proposal.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site**

T1: Silver Birch, T2: Medlar, and T3: Cork Screw Hazel (applicant's plan) are all located within the rear garden to the south of the property. T4 Sycamore (applicant's plan) is located in the North-east corner of the site at the front of the property, close to the High Street. With the exception of T4 the trees are not highly visible to the public realm. The site is within the Ashwell Conservation Area.

4.2 **Proposal**

T1: Silver Birch - Fell to ground level. T2: Medlar - Fell to ground level. T3: Cork Screw Hazel - Fell to ground level.

T4: Sycamore - Reduce in height by 4-5m and shape and balance the remainder of the crown.

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 T4 is highly visible to the public realm.

4.3.2 This appears to be a resubmission of previous application 26/01299/TCA with the addition of T4 Sycamore. The statutory 6 weeks has therefore been served for T1: Silver Birch, T2: Medlar and T3: Cork Screw Hazel with no objection.

4.3.3 T4 is a mature Sycamore with co-dominant stems that are included at the main union close to ground level. The tree appears to have been subject to crown lifting in the past, with evidence of limb removal back to the main stem showing inconsistent wound wood formation and an unnatural lower crown height of approx. 6-8m above ground level. As a result, the tree does

not express particularly good form and would benefit from a reduction, which will serve to improve the shape and long-term amenity of the tree, while reducing loading stresses on the main basal union. Although the works may be detrimental to the tree's visual amenity initially, this is anticipated to be short-term and they should improve the overall future appearance of the tree.

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 Ashwell 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  Thomas Howe	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 3 August 2026	