

Committee: Development Committee

Agenda Item

Date: 6th April 2011

11

Title: Notification of intent to fell horse chestnut tree at The Gables, Carmen Street, Great Chesterford.

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Landscape Officer

Item for decision

Summary

1. This report seeks the committee's consideration of a notification of intent to fell a Horse Chestnut tree, within a conservation area at The Gables, Carmen Street, Great Chesterford [appendix 1: Location plan]. The notification has been given by the Head of Planning & Building Services who has a declared ownership interest in the site.

Recommendation

That no objection be raised to the felling of the horse chestnut tree.

Background Papers

The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

File: UTT/0489/11/TCA

Impact

Communication/Consultation	Weekly list
Community Safety	none
Equalities	none
Finance	none
Health and Safety	none
Human Rights/Legal Implications	none
Sustainability	none
Ward-specific impacts	none
Workforce/Workplace	none

Situation

2. The tree has been inspected by the Council's Landscape Officer and found to be a mature specimen of some 16m in height. The tree has been previously pollarded at a height of approximately 2 metres with the last re-pollarding undertaken some 30 + years ago. The substantial poles that have since grown are placing considerable loading on the pollard head which is at some risk of collapse. Re-pollarding would reduce the weight but result in large cut wounds susceptible to decay and unable to support new pole growth. In addition, emerging fungal fruit bodies were found in an area at the base of the main stem. The full extent of this butt decay has not been established, but the medium to long term viability of retaining the tree is in doubt.
3. The tree is situated in the rear garden of the property and whilst the upper parts of the crown can be seen from selected vantage points in Carmen Street the tree is not a prominent feature in the street scene.
4. The tree is growing within 2m of a single storey extension of the dwelling, and within 3m of a 2m high brick boundary wall [Appendix 2: photograph.] No visual evidence was found at the time of inspection of the tree having caused damage to the fabric of the building or the garden wall, however, some limited root disturbance to the surface of an adjacent tarmac hard standing is evident.
5. Taking account of the condition of the tree, its proximity to the dwelling, and its limited visibility from public vantage points, it is not considered appropriate to make the tree the subject of a tree preservation order.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
There is no identified risk associated with this recommendation.	None [1]	None [1]	None

1 = Little or no risk or impact

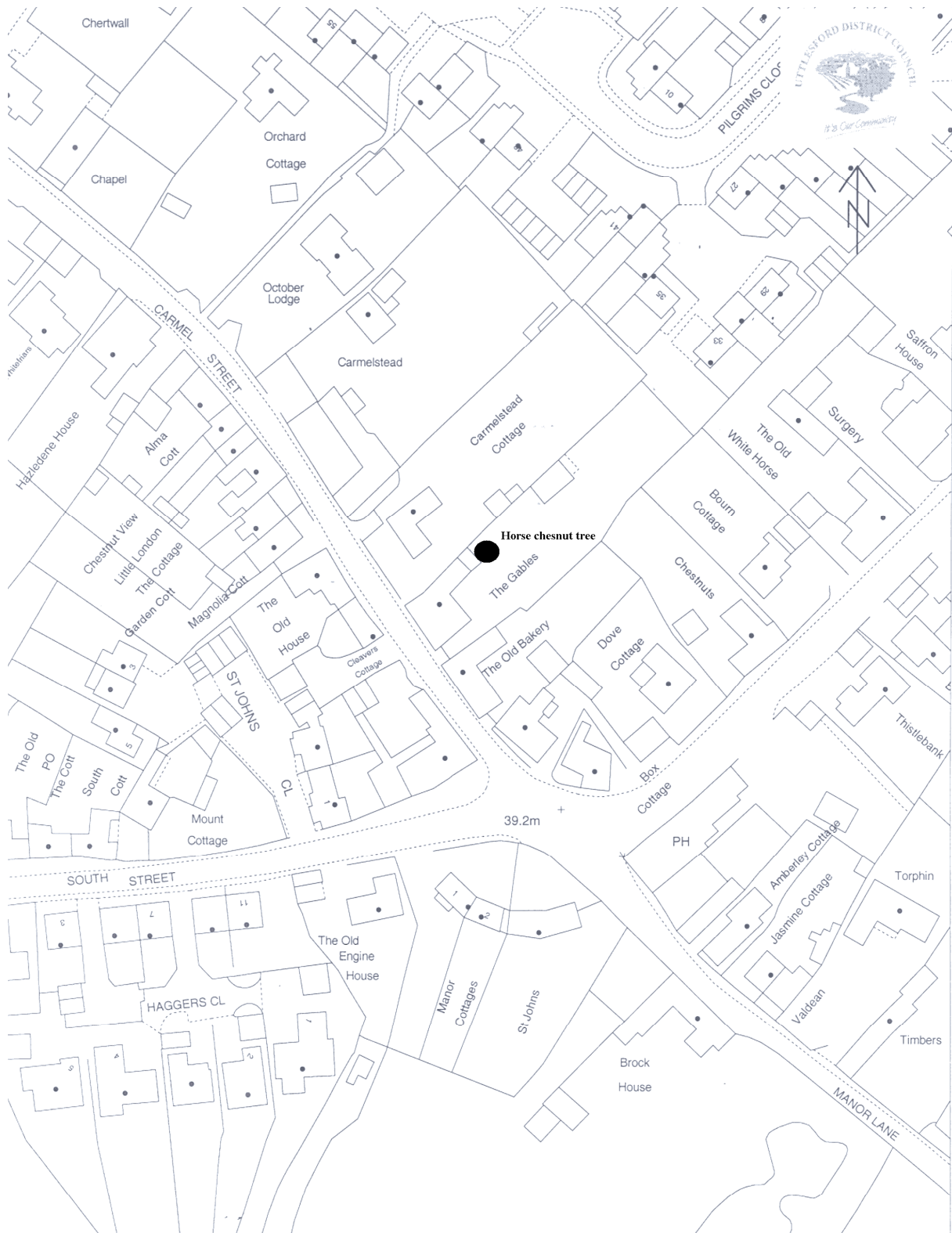
2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.

Tree at the Gables Great Chesterford
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Appendix 1: Location plan.



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DATE:16/03/2011

MAP REFERENCE:TL5042NE

SCALE:1:1000

Appendix 2. Photograph of horse chestnut tree

