

**Committee:** Planning

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013

**5**

**Title:** Application for consent to carry out tree work to walnut tree subject to UDC Tree Preservation Order No.4/12 at 53 Landscape View saffron Walden (UTT/13/1735/TPO)

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Item for decision

### Summary

1. This item seeks the Committee's consideration of a proposed crown reduction by up to 50% of a Walnut tree in the grounds of 53, Landscape View, Saffron Walden. The applicant is the District Council ward member for Ashdon.

### Recommendations

2. The application for up to 50% crown reduction of the walnut tree is refused on the grounds that the reduction would be detrimental to the health and visual amenity value of the tree and its contribution to the quality of the surrounding area.

### Financial Implications

3. None

### Background Papers

4. 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.

UTT/13/1735/TPO application

### Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	Details of the decision to be entered on to the public register of TPO applications.
Community Safety	none
Equalities	none
Health and Safety	none

Human Rights/Legal Implications	none
Sustainability	none
Ward-specific impacts	none
Workforce/Workplace	none

## Situation

6. An application for consent to crown reduce by up to 50% a walnut tree situated in the rear garden of 53 Landscape View has been received (Appendix 1: Location plan). The reasons given by the applicant for the proposed works are as follows:
- The tree has outgrown the garden and has become disproportionate to the surrounding landscape.
  - The tree gives excessive shading to the lawn, planted beds, and house.
  - Previous pruning has allowed for multiple, brittle stems to grow from the pruning points. This growth breaks and falls off in windy conditions.
  - The proposed work is the minimum maintenance required to keep this tree in good condition, whilst reducing excessive shading of the garden.
7. The tree has been inspected by the Council's Landscape Officer and found to be a mature specimen of some 13m in height with a broad well formed crown. The general health of the tree is good with no significant defects. The tree is situated in the rear garden of 53 Landscape View and forms a backdrop to houses softening the built forms when viewed from the public highway [Appendix 2: View of walnut tree from the public highway].
8. The tree does not shade a disproportionately large part of the rear garden which is some 360m<sup>2</sup> in area. The full enjoyment of the garden is not considered to be compromised by the presence of the tree. The affect of the tree on the condition of the surrounding lawn area and shrub beds is considered to be limited. Whilst the tree does cast early morning shade across the rear elevation of the house during the summer months ambient light levels to the windows are not considered to be significantly affected by the tree.
9. It is accepted that the tree will shed minor branches and other detritus from time to time. Whilst this may be an inconvenience it is considered to be relatively minor. The tree has been subject to some relatively minor branch tip pruning in the past. The regrowth at these pruning points appears to be well attached.

10. The tree is clearly visible from the public highway and not just immediate neighbours. The visibility of the tree to the general public is an important factor in the assessment of the tree's significance in the local environment.
11. The proposed crown reduction by up to 50% would result in large cut wounds which would be susceptible to infection and decay detrimental to the long term health of the tree. The crown reduction would significantly reduce the visual amenity value of the tree and its contribution to the quality of the surrounding area.

## Risk Analysis

12.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
1	1	1	none

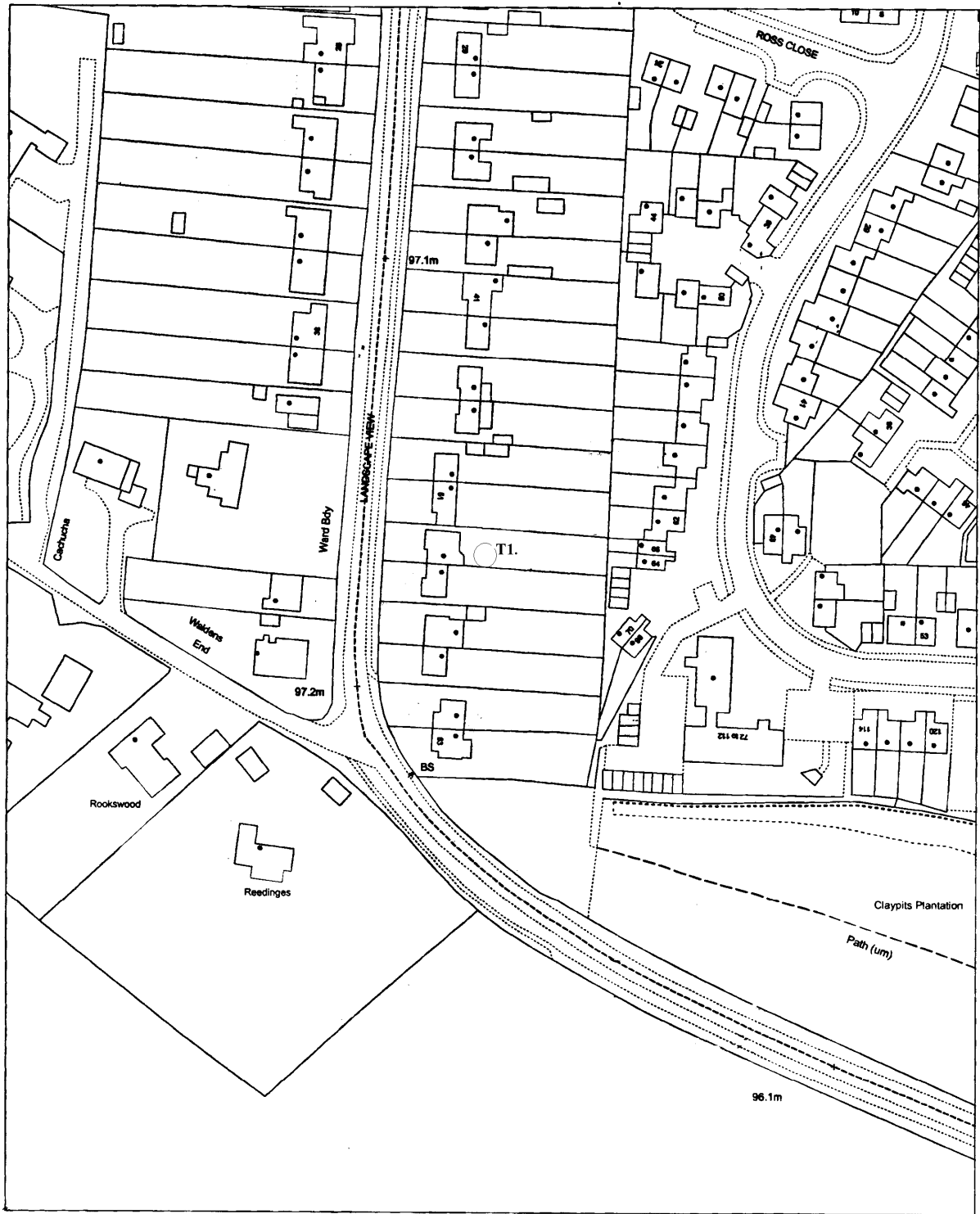
1 = Little or no risk or impact



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.

# Appendix 1: Location plan



 <p><b>UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b> <b>TREE PRESERVATION ORDER</b></p>	<p><b>No. 4/12 - Saffron Walden</b> <b>53 Landscape View</b></p>	
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<p>DATE:03/09/2012</p>	<p>MAP REFERENCE: TL5336NE</p>	<p>SCALE:1:1250</p>

**Appendix 2: View of walnut tree from the public highway**

