

Committee: Planning

Agenda Item

Date: 7th May 2014

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Title: UTT/14/0836TPO:

**Application for consent to crown lift and reduce branches of oak tree in the grounds of 24 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted:
Subject to UDC Tree Preservation Order No.7/09**

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Item for decision

Summary

This item seeks the Committee's consideration of the proposed crown lifting and reduction of branches of an oak tree in the grounds of 24, Blythwood Gardens, Stansted. The tree is subject to UDC tree preservation order no.07/09. The applicant is the District Council Member for Stort Valley.

Recommendations

- Approval granted for the lopping of branches back to previous pruning points and the pruning of lower lateral branches to lift the crown to provide up to 7m clearance above surrounding ground level.

Financial Implications

1. None..

Background Papers

UTT/14/0836/TPO application file.

Impact

- 2.

Communication/Consultation	Decision published on weekly list.
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None

Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

The oak tree is a large mature specimen of some 19m in height situated in the rear garden of 24, Blythwood Gardens. The applicant's reasons for seeking to carry out the propose crown lifting and reduction of branches is to reduce shading of the garden and house and to balance the tree's crown following a previous reduction of branches overhanging the neighbouring property, no.23.

This tree has previously been subject to an overall crown reduction. The cutting back of branches to the previous punning points would be considered appropriate management to maintain the health and integrity of the tree. In addition, the cutting back of lower lateral branches to lift the crown to provide up to 7m clearance above surrounding ground level would be considered acceptable and would not reduce the public amenity value of the tree.

Risk Analysis

3.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
2. If the pruning work is not undertaken there is a risk that weakly attached growth at the old pruning points will break out.	2. The likelihood is medium if the pruning is not undertaken within 12-24 months.	3. The location of the tree is such that there is a risk of damage or injury.	Carry out pruning of the tree.

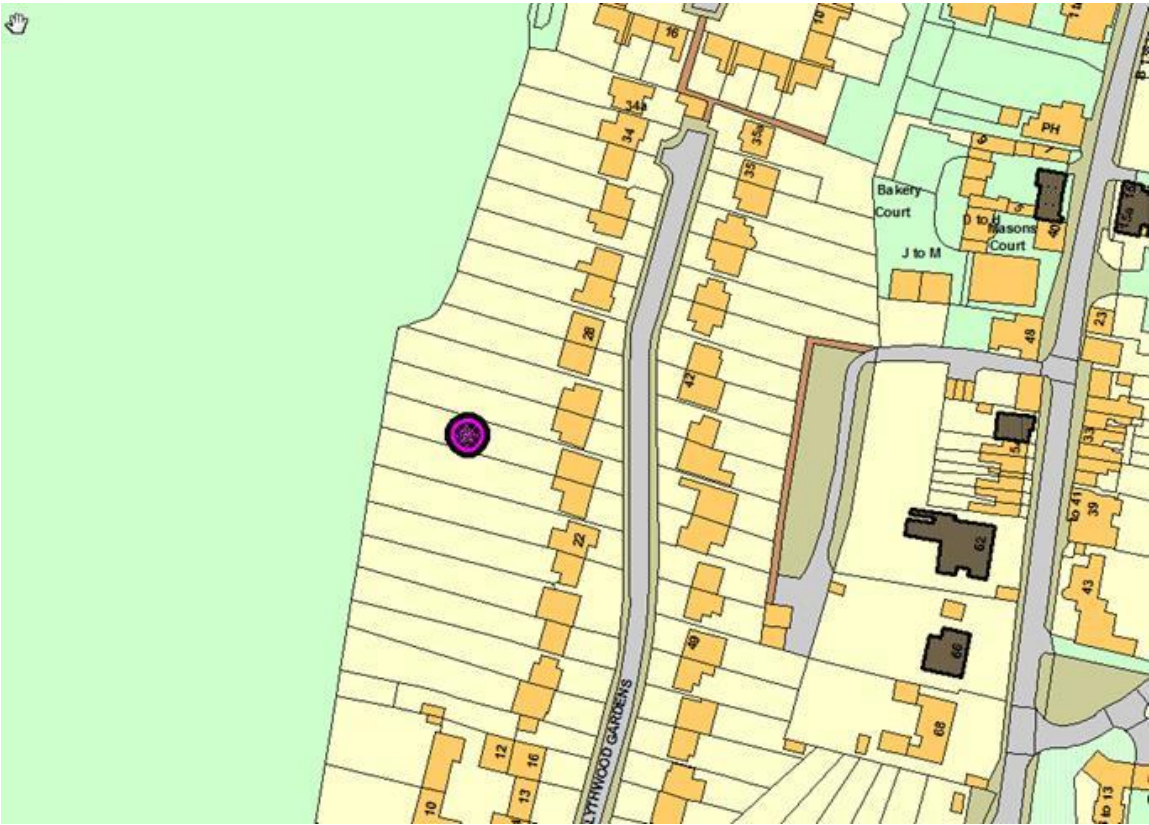
1 = Little or no risk or impact

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.



Appendix 2: Photograph of oak tree.

