

Committee: Planning

Agenda Item

Date: 15 October 2014

6

Title: Application to carry out works to produce a 4m crown reduction of 1 Walnut Tree at 53 Landscape View, Saffron Walden

Author: Andrew Taylor, Assistant Director Planning and Building Control Item for decision

Summary

1. This item seeks the Committee's consideration of a proposal to carry out works to a TPO tree to allow a 4m crown reduction in 1 Walnut tree in the grounds of 53 Landscape View Saffron Walden. The applicant is the District Council ward member for Ashdon.
2. The reasoning given is the trees size and its dominance within the garden, there was no evidence of any safety issues which are present. A separate application was submitted to fell the tree (UTT/14/2749/TPO).

Recommendations

3. It is recommended the application to carry out works to the tree is permitted but by a reduction of 2m crown reduction.

Reduce overall crown spread by up to 2 linear metres using the nearest suitable secondary growth point or previous pruning points whichever is greater. Thin crown up to 20% by the removal of suppressed secondary growth and remove any deadwood.

Financial Implications

4. None.

Background Papers

5. 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/14/2748/TPO

Impact

- 6.

Communication/Consultation	Details of the decision to be entered on to the public register of TPO applications.
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Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	Saffron Walden Audley
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

7. The tree is visible from the front of the property and footway. 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.
8. The tree appears in reasonable health and condition when viewed from the footway to the front and side of the property. No indication or evidence has been received from the applicant that consent is required to remediate any defects.
9. The tree is a mature walnut of significant proportions which dominates the rear garden. It is a prominent visual feature and of high amenity value. The Inspector in the appeal in 2013 concurred with this assessment and the Decision Notice is attached as Appendix 1.
10. However its dominance in its setting may be argued as unreasonable and provided sympathetic pruning is undertaken this should not be prove to be detrimental to the tree.
11. The application to reduce by 4m is excessive and a reduced specification of up to 2m linear crown reduction is recommended in the decision, see image A below.

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.

