

**Application Number:** BH2008/01512                      **Ward:** Goldsmid  
**Address:** Aylesbury, York Avenue  
**Proposal:** To fell 1 x Tilia spp (Lime), Tree number T.30 covered by Tree Preservation Order (No. 2) 1995.  
**Officer:** Di Morgan, tel. 01273 292186  
**Date Received:** 17 April 2008  
**Applicant:** Countrywide Property Management

## **1 Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider the above application.

## **2 Recommendation**

2.1 That the Sub-Committee has taken into consideration and agrees with the reasons for the recommendation set out in paragraph 7 of this report and resolves to **refuse** consent to fell this tree.

## **3 Description of the Application Site**

3.1 Aylesbury is a large modern block of flats situated on the corner of York Avenue and Furze Hill. The boundary is comprised of a small wall, half metre in height. Adjoining the boundary is a small strip of soil (in which the subject of this application grows), and behind that the remainder of the grounds are laid to lawn. There are several other trees along this boundary and also within the grounds of the block that are covered by this Tree Preservation Order.

## **4 Proposal**

4.1 The applicant wishes to fell this specimen to the ground as they state it is damaging the front boundary wall.

## **5 Relevant Planning History**

5.1 No relevant planning history available for this site.

## **6 Considerations**

- 6.1 This Tilia is approximately 14 – 15 metres in height with a crown spread of 7 – 8 metres. Crown break is at approximately 5 metres, where the tree splits into three spires. One of the branch unions at this split has included bark, which indicates that the union may be considered weak. The main bole of the tree is ivy-clad to approximately 4 metres.
- 6.2 The tree is situated in a shrubbery immediately abutting the public pavement on York Avenue.
- 6.3 At the time of the inspecting officer's visit, the tree had no immediately hazardous defects visible from ground level. The Arboricultural Section, however, strongly recommend that the previously mentioned weak branch union is assessed and crown reduction may be considered to reduce the risk of this union failing. It is the natural growth habit of a Tilia spp to produce epicormic growth. This is now close to overhanging the public footpath at ground level, which may be a hazard to pedestrians. The ivy covering the trunk may be concealing structural faults on the tree and should be removed for a full visual tree assessment. The tree supports a colony of Pulvinaria regalis (Horse Chestnut Scale), however, this is considered to be an aesthetic rather than a structural problem for the tree.
- 6.4 The inspecting officer is of the opinion that the tree offers high public amenity value.
- 6.5 The inspecting officer is of the opinion that the tree has indeed caused damage to the boundary wall, however, the wall will need to be repaired regardless of the tree. There are engineering solutions to allow the rebuilding of the wall without the necessity to remove the tree.
- 6.6 No loss or damage is likely to occur if the application is refused to fell this tree in the short term, however, it is strongly recommended that the wall is repaired / rebuilt and the tree receives attention as detailed above.

## **7 Conclusion**

- 7.1 The tree the subject of this application is a fine specimen and offers high public amenity value. The impact of its removal would be significant.
- 7.2 A visual tree assessment from ground level did not reveal any reason why the tree should be felled.
- 7.3 The damage the tree has caused to the wall could easily be repaired without the need to remove the tree.