

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

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REPORT OF: Arboricultural Officer  
TO: Planning Committee  
WARD: Trumpington

**TREE WORKS APPLICATION 12/019/TTPO  
APPLICATION TO FELL WILLOW AT BISHOPS COURT**

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**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 An application has been received to fell a Willow in the communal gardens of Bishops Court, Trumpington, protected by Tree Preservation Order number 07/2008.
- 1.2 The item is brought before Members because objections have been received to the removal of the tree.
- 1.3 The Local Planning Authority can deal with this application in one of three ways:
  - (1) Grant consent for the works without condition,
  - (2) Grant consent to works with condition or,
  - (3) Refuse permission for the works.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Council refuse consent for the removal of the tree.

**3.0 BACKGROUND**

- On 16th October 2011, the Bishops Court Estate applied for permission to carry out various tree works on the estate including the removal of low branches and deadwood in the subject Willow. These works were approved on 1st December 2011. Following instruction to a local tree surgeon, the estate was advised that the scope of the work on the Willow was too narrow and he recommended that the tree be felled because it is a Crack Willow, which has brittle branches that could snap off at any time and was therefore extremely dangerous, especially given that children play near it.

**4.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 4.1 Ward councillors and residents were consulted and a Site Notice was issued for display.

4.2 Objection to the removal of the Willow has been received from a resident of Bishops Court.

## 5.0 CONSIDERATIONS

5.1. Is the TPO still appropriate

### Amenity

Does the tree still make a significant contribution to the character and appearance of the area

### Condition

Has the tree's condition deteriorated sufficiently to make it exempt from the TPO

### Justification for Removal

Are there sound practical or arboricultural reasons to remove trees or carry out tree works.

- What is the justification
- Is there a financial consideration
- Is there a health and safety consideration
- Does the nuisance out way the benefit of retention

5.2 The Arboricultural Officer's assessment of the trees

Is the TPO still appropriate

### Amenity

The tree is located adjacent to the west of Bishops Court and is clearly visible from Hauxton Road. It helps screen the hard line lines of Bishops Courts from the road and screens the road from the Court.

### Condition

The tree is still in a good state of health with no indication of poor vitality or significant defect. The potential for limbs to fail as a result of its brittle nature can be managed with remedial works as opposed to removal.

### Justification for Removal

- What is the justification  
The tree officer does not consider the tree species and its brittle nature to be sufficient justification for its removal, without the presence of clear structural defect.
- Is there a financial consideration. – No
- Is there a health and safety consideration – Yes, the tree is in a communal garden and loss of limb could result in harm to users. However more considered remedial work would reduce the potential for significant structural failure, while maintaining the tree's amenity contribution.

5.3 Applicants reasons for wishing to fell the trees

- The tree is a Crack Willow, which has brittle branches that could snap off at any time and is therefore extremely dangerous, especially given that children play near it.

#### 5.4 Objections

- The tree shelters several flats from the view of the M11, Park and Ride and traffic on Hauxton Road.
- The tree provides a home for many birds and adds a great deal to the beautiful external scenery at Bishops court.

### 6.0. OPTIONS

#### 6.1 Members may

- Grant consent for the works without condition,
- Grant consent to works with condition or,
- Refuse permission for the works.

### 7.0 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The Council refuse consent for the removal of the tree.

### 8.0 IMPLICATIONS

(a) <b>Financial Implications</b>	None
(b) <b>Staffing Implications</b>	None
(c) <b>Equal Opportunities Implications</b>	None
(d) <b>Environmental Implications</b>	None
(e) <b>Community Safety</b>	None

**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** The following are the background papers that were used in the preparation of this report:

TWA 12/019/TTPO – Fell Willow

Tree Preservation Orders: a guide to the law and good practice

Objection from bishops Court resident

To inspect these documents contact Joanna Davies on extension 8522

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