

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

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REPORT OF: Arboricultural Officer  
TO: Planning Committee 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014  
WARDS: Coleridge

**OBJECTION TO CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
TREE PRESERVATION ORDER (TPO) NO. 12/2014**

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**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 A TPO has been served to protect a tree at 16 Coniston Road Cambridge.
- 1.2 An objection to the order have been received, the decision whether or not to confirm the order is brought before Committee.
- 1.3 Members are to decide whether to confirm or not confirm the Tree Preservation Order.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The tree preservation order is confirmed without amendment.

**3.0 BACKGROUND**

The Norway Spruce tree is under threat from being removed. A neighbour alerted us to the fact a large Spruce tree was going to be removed in coming days.

**4.0 POWER TO MAKE A TPO**

- 4.1 If it appears to a local planning authority that it is expedient in the interests of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees or woodlands in their area, they may for that purpose make trees, groups of trees or woodlands the subject of TPO.

4.1.1 Expedience

If there is a risk of trees being cut down or pruned in ways which would have a significant impact on their contribution to amenity it

may be expedient to serve a Tree Preservation Order. In some cases the Local Planning Authority may believe trees to be at risk generally from development pressure and therefore consider it expedient to protect trees without known, immediate threat. Where trees are clearly in good arboricultural management it may not be considered appropriate or necessary to serve a TPO

#### 4.1.2 Amenity

While amenity is not defined in the Town and Country Planning Act, government guidance suggests that trees suitable for TPO should be visible to the public, at the time of making the TPO or in future. Trees may be worthy of preservation for their intrinsic beauty or for their contribution to the landscape or because they serve to screen an eyesore. Consideration should also be given to environmental benefits and historic/commemorative significance.

#### 4.1.3 Suitability

The impact of trees on their local surroundings should also be assessed, taking into account how suitable they are to their particular setting, the presence of other trees in the vicinity and the significance of any detrimental impact trees may have on their immediate surroundings.

### 4.2 Suitability of this TPO

#### 4.2.1 Expedience

Complete removal of the tree by the property owner.

#### 4.2.2 Amenity

The tree is clearly seen from Cherry Hinton Road & Coniston Road. It is one of the taller trees on the immediate horizon and therefore softens the urban landscape in which it sits.

#### 4.2.3 Suitability

The Spruce has a slender conical shape and is in good physiological and structural condition. Remedial pruning can take place, work would be acceptable to reduce the trees impact on immediate surroundings.

## 5.0 CONSULTATIONS

5.1 A TPO must be served upon anyone who has an interest in land affected by the TPO.

5.2 Following such consultation an objection has been received to the TPO from Mrs Jennifer Jones.

## **6.0 CONSIDERATIONS**

### **6.1 The objection is made on the following grounds:**

6.1.1 The tree is much wider than the garden and somewhat scraggy.

6.1.2 The tree was a Christmas Tree planted by objectors farther. It's roots had dried out because it was indoors over the seasonal period.

6.1.3 Conifers have shallow roots and prefer acid soil. These are not the soil conditions found in the garden.

6.1.4 Concerns over stability of the tree and the liability.

6.1.5 Low public amenity, and only viewed between a narrow drive between the houses on Coniston Road. Also it is situated behind a shed from this viewpoint.

6.1.6 The tree threatens the shed and sap from the tree is covering the residents swing chair.

### **6.2 Officer's response to the objection.**

6.2.1 Remedial low crown pruning can aid lack of space without removing the whole tree. The tree is of very good physiological visual condition with no dieback, discolouration of foliage or pathogens identified on the tree.

6.2.2 The tree may have struggled in early juvenile years, but has established very well.

6.2.3 In general, most trees in the British Isles have shallow roots, reaching down generally only 60cm, with roots having a wide spreading outreach.

Whilst Spruce do prefer acid, free draining soil and a climate of frequent rainfall, the city does have a good number of Spruce growing in parks and private land with this tree being a fine example of such. Coniferous trees do also have the capability of creating their own Podzol Soil. This means that with enough natural needle-drop the humus layer/soil around the tree will become acidic.

6.2.4 There is nothing to suggest that this tree will fail as it is in a healthy condition. Even in exceptional adverse weather, this is an unknown and as such, would be an overreaction to remove a tree because 'it might' fail in a rare and extreme weather condition.

6.2.5 The Spruce is seen from Coniston Road and between the Properties 15 and 16 quite clearly. You can also see the tree at the top of Coniston Road/junction of Cherry Hinton Road. Therefore offers an important landmark in the tree line along Cherry Hinton Road and surrounding Coleridge Ward.

6.2.6 Leaf, fruit and sap fall are natural deposits from trees. Therefore not a sufficient reason for removal. Soft landscaping, wooden/light structured, temporary outbuildings can be moved and/or repaired easily and does not warrant the removal of a mature tree.

## **7.0. OPTIONS**

7.1 Members may

- Confirm the Tree Preservation Order.
- Decide not to confirm the Tree Preservation Order.
- Confirm the Tree Preservation Order with modification

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 Members are respectfully recommended to confirm City of Cambridge Tree Preservation Order 21/2014

## **9.0 IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

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

City of Cambridge Tree Preservation Order 12/2014

To inspect these documents contact Kenny McGregor on extension 8518

The author and contact officer for queries on the report is Kenny McGregor on extension 8518

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