

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Arboricultural Officer
TO: Planning Committee 6th July
WARDS: Newnham

**OBJECTION TO CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
TREE PRESERVATION ORDER (TPO) NO. 06/2016**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A TPO has been served to protect a Sycamore tree on the front boundary at 22 Barton Road.
- 1.2 As objections 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

- 3.1 A section 211 Notice was received for T1: Sycamore - Dismantle to ground level, T2: Plum - Dismantle to ground level, T3 Holly - Dismantle to ground level, T4 Purple plum - Dismantle to ground level, T5 - Silver birch Dismantle to ground level. The reason given was that trees were infected with Honey Fungus and the desire to inhibit further spread. While there was no evidence presented with the application to support the claim the removal of T2 to T5 would have no material impact on public amenity and therefore these trees were not appropriate for TPO protection. However the Sycamore is a dominant tree and a feature of Barton. As evidence was lacking support the claim that this tree required removal and its removal would have a material impact on public amenity a TPO was served to protect this tree.

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

A TPO was expedient because we received notice of intended tree works. Part of those works would have a significant impact on public amenity.

4.2.2 Amenity

The tree is located on the front boundary of a property on the north side of the busy Barton Road. It is clearly visible and a prominent feature of the road.

4.2.3 Suitability

There are no overbearing practical reasons that would make the tree unsuitable in its location.

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 the adjacent St Marks Court.

6.0 CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 The objection is made on the following grounds:

6.1.1 Honey Fungus spreads by infected wood and roots and is likely to spread to St Mark's Court. The trees have to be felled to limit the spread of the fungus

6.2 Officer's response to the objection.

6.2.1 There are a few species of Honey Fungus that have varying significance for trees and shrubs, it has not been established which Honey Fungus is present. Strands of hyphae radiate out through the soil from an established colony and are responsible for spreading the fungus as well as root to root contact. There was no evidence, yellowing foliage, die-back, wilting and early leaf fall, presented with the notice to suggest that the is Sycamore infected. At the time of inspection the crown appeared healthy.

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 06/2016

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:

TWA 15/539/TTCA

City of Cambridge Tree Preservation Order 06/2016

Email of objection

To inspect these documents contact Joanna Davies on extension 8522

The author and contact officer for queries on the report is Joanna Davies on extension 8522

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