
REPORT TO:	PLANNING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 6
DATE OF MEETING:	16 TH DECEMBER 2014	CATEGORY: DELEGATED/ RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STUART BATCHELOR	OPEN/EXEMPT PARAGRAPH NO:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	RICHARD RODGERS	DOC:
SUBJECT:	TPO386	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	REPTON	TERMS OF REFERENCE: PL01

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That this tree preservation order be confirmed.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To consider confirmation of this tree preservation order (TPO).

3.0 Detail

3.1 This tree preservation order was made on 18 July 2014 in respect of a silver birch tree at 18 Newton Park, Newton Solney.

3.2 The TPO was made at the request of Chris Nash (Area Planning Officer) following notification (9/2013/1026/TC) to fell the silver birch and a conifer. The conifer was allowed to be felled.

3.3 Not only does the tree have a high degree of amenity, it helps contribute to the special character of this Conservation Area.

3.4 Comments relating to the proposed Order have been received and are summarised as:

- The tree is close to the house with part of the canopy overhanging our roof;
- The roots will grow under the footings of our house.

- Birch tend to be shallow rooted. Roots can extend (further than the drip line) in search of water and concentrate their growth there. Our drainage is next to our house and there is evidence of drainage problems;
- The roots of the tree are visible here;
- Large trees nearby have blown over. We (and our neighbours) are concerned this tree will fall in high winds;
- Normally we would not wish to see any trees cut down. We believe we have choice given the circumstances;

3.4 In answer to the comments made officers have the following response:

- Direct damage to foundations and drainage is highly unlikely. Birch trees are classed as low water demand (see NHBC Standards 2010);
- Birch are shallow rooted and often seen near the surface (grassed/vegetative areas);
- Unless the roots have been damaged Birch trees tend to remain fairly stable with a higher probability to 'snap' than uproot. This tree though is young and in good health.

4.0 Planning Assessment

4.1 It is expedient in the interests of amenity to make the trees the subject of a tree preservation order.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 It is expedient in the interests of amenity to preserve.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 None.

7.0 Corporate Implications

7.1 Protecting visually important trees contributes towards the Corporate Plan theme of Sustainable Development.

8.0 Community Implications

8.1 Trees that are protected for their good visual amenity value enhance the environment and character of an area and therefore are of community benefit for existing and future residents helping to achieve the vision for the Vibrant Communities theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

9.0 Background Information

9.1 18 July 2014 Tree Preservation Order

9.2 Letter of objection from Adrian & Diane Wootton.