
REPORT TO:	PLANNING COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM:
DATE OF MEETING:	7th February 2012	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	RICHARD RODGERS X5744	DOC:
SUBJECT:	TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 349	REF:
WARD AFFECTED:	WILLINGTON & FINDERN	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 TPO was made on 13 October 2011 in respect of a silver birch tree in the rear garden space of 4 Canal Bridge, Willington

3.2 The TPO was made at the request of the Area Planning Officer following an application to fell the tree. This tree though is seen to afford a level of amenity and as such contributes to the character of the street scene and the Trent and Mersey Conservation Area.

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

- We are concerned how close the tree is to our property and what the roots of the tree are doing to the foundations of our house.
- The tree blocks sunlight
- In high winds we are extremely concerned about its stability.
- The tree drops sharp leaves into our garden and onto our young baby's clothes.

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

- Direct damage to foundations is highly unlikely. The tree is 4.9 metres from the main house, and 2.2 metres from the nearest outbuilding. Indirect damage caused by soil shrinkage when the seasonal uptake of water occurs, is only a concern when the sub-soil is highly shrinkable and the tree is within the 'Zone of Influence'. Birch trees are classed as low water demand (see NHBC Standards 2010).
- In most cases there is no inherent 'Right to Light' and Silver birch trees do not have large dense canopies, more of a weeping habit with dappled shade.
- 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.
- Broadleaf trees such as the Silver birch in question drop leaves. Leaves are small, rot down relatively quickly and the leaf drop is only seasonal.

4.0 Planning Assessment

4.1 It is expedient in the interests of amenity to make the tree 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 13 October 2011 Tree Preservation Order

9.2 10 November 2011 – Letter from 2 Canal Bridge.