

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**PLANNING COMMITTEE – 10 AUGUST 2016****TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 2016****REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: GOVERNANCE, PROCUREMENT & COMMISSIONING****1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the making of a provisional Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and to seek its confirmation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members resolve to confirm the following Order without modification:-

Borough of Telford & Wrekin (Woodthorne House, 1 Sutherland Avenue, Wellington, Telford TF1 3BL) Tree Preservation Order 2016

3.0 SUMMARY

- 3.1 On 10 February 2016 a provisional Tree Preservation Order was made in respect of nine trees: one cedar, two sequoia, one yew, one oak, two pine and two copper beech (identified as **T1-T9** on the appended map – **Appendix 1**) at Woodthorne House, 1 Sutherland Avenue, Wellington, Telford TF1 3BL.
- 3.2 On 12 February 2016 an objection to the Tree Preservation Order was received from residents at the neighbouring property, Kinsale, Sutherland Avenue Wellington
- 3.3 On 29 February 2016 an objection was received from the owner of the property at Woodthorne House, 1 Sutherland Avenue, Wellington. Following correspondence with the Arboricultural Officer, the owner's objection was withdrawn on 18 March 2016 and crowning and dead wooding of the trees has subsequently taken place.
- 3.4 The objection from the neighbours at Kinsale remains on the grounds that they consider the trees not to be indigenous to the area, they have been allowed to become overgrown over the years and were a poor choice of trees. The neighbours are of the opinion that the trees should be taken down and replaced with more suitable specimens.

4.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 None.

5.0 INFORMATION

5.1 Details of Objection

Copies of the letters from the owner of Woodthorne House and a letter from the neighbours at Kinsale are attached to this report as **Appendix 2**.

5.2 Response of Arboricultural Officer

The Arboricultural Officer replied by indicating that

1. Crown cleaning could take place and deadwood could be removed from the tree without permission being required from the Council.
2. The two trees in question were not considered to be “unpredictable” as the Sequoia species was known to “never blow down” (as stated in Alan Mitchell – A Field guide to Trees of Britain and Northern Europe, 1st edition).

The Arboricultural Officer is still of the opinion that the TPO should be made as the removal of deadwood and crown thinning had already been undertaken.

Photographs of the Trees are attached to this report as **Appendix 3**:

- Photograph 1: shows the 2 trees adjacent to No 3, from Sutherland Avenue
Photograph 2: shows the Copper Beech included within the order, looking northward up Sutherland Avenue
Photograph 3: shows the Pine trees within the order, looking up from College Lane
Photograph 4: shows the 2 Copper Beech trees included within the order looking southward down Sutherland Avenue at the cross roads of Leegomery Road, College Lane and Roslyn Road
Photograph 5: shows the Sequoia and the Cedar trees adjacent to the neighbouring property. These trees have since been pruned via the application process.

6.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

6.1 Not applicable.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.1 The amenity value of the trees outweighs any reasons given for their removal.

8.0 LEGAL COMMENT

8.1 A Tree Preservation Order is made under the powers conferred on the Borough of Telford & Wrekin by Sections 198, 201 and 203 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. A Local Planning Authority may preserve trees or woodlands if it thinks it is expedient in the interests of amenity to do so.

- 8.2 The Tree Preservation Order does not preclude necessary lopping or pruning. However, it would be necessary for the Council to consent before any such work was undertaken.
- 8.3 Should an application be received for consent to fell any protected tree(s), conditions could be imposed to secure the replanting of suitable replacement trees.
- 8.4 Before confirming an Order the Council must first consider any objections which have not been withdrawn.
- 8.5 Should an application be received for consent to fell any protected tree(s), conditions could be imposed to secure the replanting of suitable replacement trees.

9.0 LINKS WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 9.1 The making of Tree Preservation Orders is an important element in the Council's priority of ensuring a sustainable environment.

10.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no financial implications for the Council.

11.0 WARD IMPLICATIONS

College

12.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1 Borough of Telford & Wrekin (Woodthorne House, 1 Sutherland Avenue, Wellington, Telford TF1 3BL) Tree Preservation Order 2016

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