

6. Consideration of an application to remove a tree protected by the Three Rivers (The Drive ,Chorleywood) Tree Preservation Order 2010 (TPO741) (DCES)

1. Summary

1.1 To consider an application to remove a tree protected by the Three Rivers (**The Drive, Chorleywood**) Tree Preservation Order 2010 due to the fact that the applicant is the neighbour of a Three Rivers District Councillor. This report also sets out the officer's recommendations regarding the tree works application.

2. Details

2.1 A tree works application has been received by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to fell a Douglas Fir tree (T160 of TPO741) in the front garden of 2A High Close Rickmansworth. The full title of the order is Three Rivers (**The Drive, Chorleywood**) Tree Preservation Order 2010. A Three Rivers District Councillor resides at a neighbouring property and as a result it is established practice that such an application is to be considered by Planning Committee rather than delegated to officers.

2.2 Permission is sought to fell the mature Douglas Fir tree in the front garden for the following reasons:

- (a) Roots have entered the drains and are now causing damage to the drains.
- (b) Roots are lifting the drive way.
- (c) Large roots are now very close to the house.
- (d) Branches extend too far over the road.
- (e) Residents are happy to re plant.

2.3 The following comments are made in response to the above reasons:

- (a) No drainage report accompanied the tree works application.
- (b) Damage to the drive way is minimal and localised.
- (c) A site inspection revealed no evidence of surface roots near to the property.
- (d) Permission for branches to be crown lifted to 5.4m over the highway and pulled back to comply with highway safety, as part of this application.
- (e) If permission were given to fell the tree then a replacement tree would be a condition of any consent.

The officer recommendation is to refuse consent to fell this tree. The reasons supporting this refusal are:

- i. The tree scores highly when using a methodology to assess the amenity value of the tree.
- ii. The tree adds to the sylvan character of the area, and provides year round interest due to the fact that it is coniferous.
- iii. The tree has high public visibility and good morphology.

3. Options/Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 There are two options available to the Committee:

- (a) To refuse permission for felling the Douglas Fir tree but to allow lesser works to crown lift the tree to 5.4m over the footway and highway to allow vehicle clearance.
- (b) Approve the felling of the Douglas Fir, which would be detrimental to the amenity of the local area.

4. Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy and budgets.

5. **Financial, Legal, Equal Opportunities, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications**

5.1 None specific.

6. **Recommendation**

6.1 That permission for the felling of the Douglas Fir tree T160 of the Three Rivers (**The Drive, Chorleywood**) Tree Preservation Order 2010 (TPO741) is refused. The following lesser works however should be permitted; to crown lift the tree to 5.4m over the footway and highway to allow appropriate clearance of the highway.

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Background Papers

- TPO file 741: Three Rivers (The Drive, Chorleywood) Tree Preservation Order 2010