

PLANNING COMMITTEE – 10 DECEMBER 2015

PART I - DELEGATED

5. **Consideration of Objections and Confirmation of Three Rivers (Old Mill Road, Hunton Bridge) Tree Preservation Order 2015** (DCES)

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 To consider objections made in respect of the Three Rivers (Old Mill Road, Hunton Bridge) Tree Preservation Order 2015. This report sets out the officer's recommendations to confirm this Order without modification.

2. **Details**

- 2.1 In October 2014 Trees and Landscape were contacted by Hertfordshire Highways to advise on the landscape implications of a proposed new footway adjacent to Old Mill Road, Hunton Bridge. Hertfordshire Highways were advised as follows:

'To the rear of Nos. 48 and 49 The Maltings are two mature Lime trees which define the 'gateway' into Hunton Bridge from the south. These trees would be worthy of protection with a Tree Preservation Order. There would appear to be enough space to put a footpath behind the trees, though this would require some specialist construction methods to ensure that tree roots are not damaged.'

In September 2015 Trees and Landscape were contacted by Hertfordshire Highways and asked to comment on why they should not be allowed to remove the two trees as they were not protected by a Tree Preservation Order. The Three Rivers (Old Mill Road, Hunton Bridge) Tree Preservation Order 2015 was made to protect the character of Hunton Bridge and to encourage a full exploration of the possibility of locating the footpath behind the trees.

- 2.2 An objection has been submitted regarding the Order on the following basis:

- a) The County Council in partnership with Three Rivers District Council are progressing a scheme to provide traffic calming and additional footway in Old Mill Road. The new footway will require one, or possibly two of the trees to be felled. It is not possible to put the footway on the opposite side of the road, or consider the land behind the trees as we have been unable to trace any ownership.

- 2.3 In response to the above objection:

- a) The parcel of land between the Highway and the rear of Nos. 46-50 The Maltings is unregistered. It seems that the uncertainty about the ownership of this land is the main reason that these trees are to be removed. Given the landscape importance of the trees, further investigations should be made into the status of this parcel of land.
- b) These two trees are rooted on the eastern side of Old Mill Road opposite the entrance to the old water mill. The Hunton Bridge Conservation Area covers the old mill and associated buildings on the western side of the road.
- c) If this Tree Preservation Order is not confirmed then the two Lime trees will be removed. The current uncertainty about the status of the adjacent land would mean that no replacement planting would be possible to mitigate the loss of the trees.

3. **Options/Reasons for Recommendation**

3.1 There are two options available to the Committee:

- (a) Confirm the Order without modification.
- (b) Not to confirm the Order. This would mean that the tree/s would not be provided statutory protection and could be removed without any further notification requirement.

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, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications**

5.1 None specific.

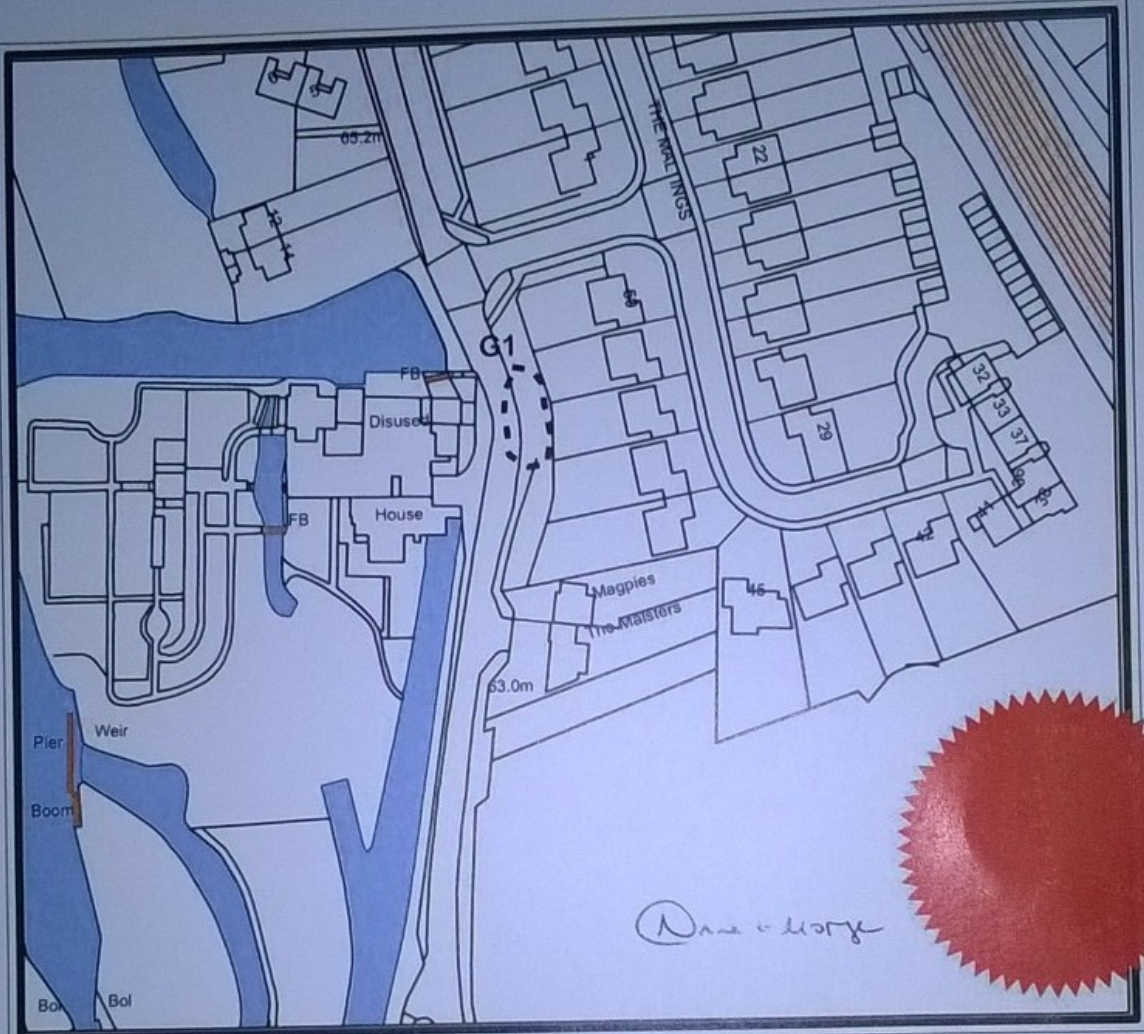
6. **Recommendation**

6.1 That the objection is noted but that the Three Rivers (Old Mill Road, Hunton Bridge) Tree Preservation Order 2015 is confirmed without modification.

Report prepared by: Terence Flynn, Landscape Officer

Background Papers

- TPO829 file



TPO 829

Three Rivers (Old Mill Road, Hunton Bridge)
Tree Preservation Order 2015

Date: 28th September 2015 Scale: 1:1250
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