

AGENDA ITEM NO.31

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date **17 OCTOBER 2012**

Title **TPO 09/2012, 8 HORSEGATE, WHITTLESEY**

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the current situation in respect of confirmation of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) at 8 Horsegate, Whittlesey and to determine an appropriate course of action.

2. SUMMARY

Matters relating to the issue and confirmation of a TPO are normally dealt with by delegated powers and confirmations are only referred to this Committee where objections to the Order are received. The mature poplar is large and prominent, being visible from long views and has value in terms of adding to the visual amenity of the conservation area. The decision to seek its retention was made in August 2012.

The aforementioned poplar tree is in the back garden of 8, Horsegate close to the rear boundary which is shared with 38A Church Street.

3. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that members confirm the TPO in respect of the poplar tree at the rear of 8, Horsegate, Whittlesey

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Forward Plan Reference No. (if applicable) | Not applicable |
| Portfolio Holder(s) | Not applicable |
| Report Originator | Christine Flittner |
| Contact Officer(s) | Graham Nourse, Head of Planning |
| Background Paper(s) | TPO09/2012 |

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Following a review of the site in response to an enquiry it became apparent that the Poplar tree is worthy of preservation and authority was sought to issue a TPO. The Order was subject to a 28 day period for the receipt of any objections prior to final confirmation.
- 1.2 Two letters have been received from the owners of cottages in Wades Yard and on Church Street. These letters give the following reasons for objecting to the confirmation of the TPO:
 - The amenity value of the tree is negated by the fact that it is extremely dangerous to those in the surrounding area.
 - It has brittle branches which drop, through natural pruning, in neighbouring gardens and could injure or kill someone.
 - The tree (along with two others on the front of 8 Horsegate) drops buds and sap in spring which causes nuisance to property, vehicles and the pavement.
 - Many trees in Whittlesey have been removed over the years which provided similar landscape value and could have been preserved for the reasons given in this case, e.g. St Andrew's Churchyard and the Ivy Leaf Club.
 - Extreme volumes of bird excrement exist over properties and pavements due to the trees.
- 1.3 It is noted that the owner of the tree has not challenged the TPO.

2. ASSESSMENT

- 2.1 The Order, which encompasses the aforementioned poplar tree, is detailed on the accompanying plan.
- 2.2 The placement of a TPO does not prevent work to the tree or even its future removal, but gives the Local Planning Authority control over 'inappropriate' works. It is considered that a suitable course of action would be the reduction of the crown of the tree by 30% with regular management to maintain the smaller crown. This has been discussed with the owner of the tree, who has indicated that an application for the works will be submitted as it is not the intention to remove the tree.
- 2.3 A crown reduction as suggested by the FDC Arboricultural Officer would reduce the likelihood of branches breaking off and whilst the issue of bird droppings has been considered and may be reduced as a result of future management this is not an issue that can be controlled. For purposes of clarification it should be noted that the order relates only to the single tree to the rear of 8 Horsegate and does not cover the trees on the frontage of the property which are mentioned in the objections received.
- 2.4 The mature Poplar tree has long term potential to contribute to the landscape character of the area if properly managed and maintained. It is a prominent specimen and makes a significant contribution to local amenity and the conservation area. It is, therefore, recommended that the TPO is confirmed.



Created on: 04/07/2012 Scale = 1:1,000

© Crown Copyright and database rights 2012 Ordnance Survey 10023778

TPO 09/2012
TPO at 8 Horsegate Whittlesey
T01 Poplar



1250