

AGENDA ITEM NO. 20

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date 23rd July 2014

Title TPO reference: 2/2008 13 Doddington Road, Benwick

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request authority from members to revoke Tree Preservation Order (TPO) 2/2008 at 13 Doddington Road, Benwick given that the protected tree has been felled and replaced.

2. SUMMARY

Matters relating to the issue and confirmation of unopposed TPOs are normally dealt with by delegated powers, however the revocation of any confirmed TPO falls outside the scheme of delegation and as such this matter is duly referred to Committee for authority to proceed with the revocation.

A replacement tree has been secured on the site given the failure of part of the tree covered by TPO 2/2008. This replacement tree, a Pin Oak, benefits from protection under TPO 02/2013 which has been confirmed under delegated powers

3. RECOMMENDATION

It is therefore recommended that members authorise that TPO 2/2008 is formally revoked.

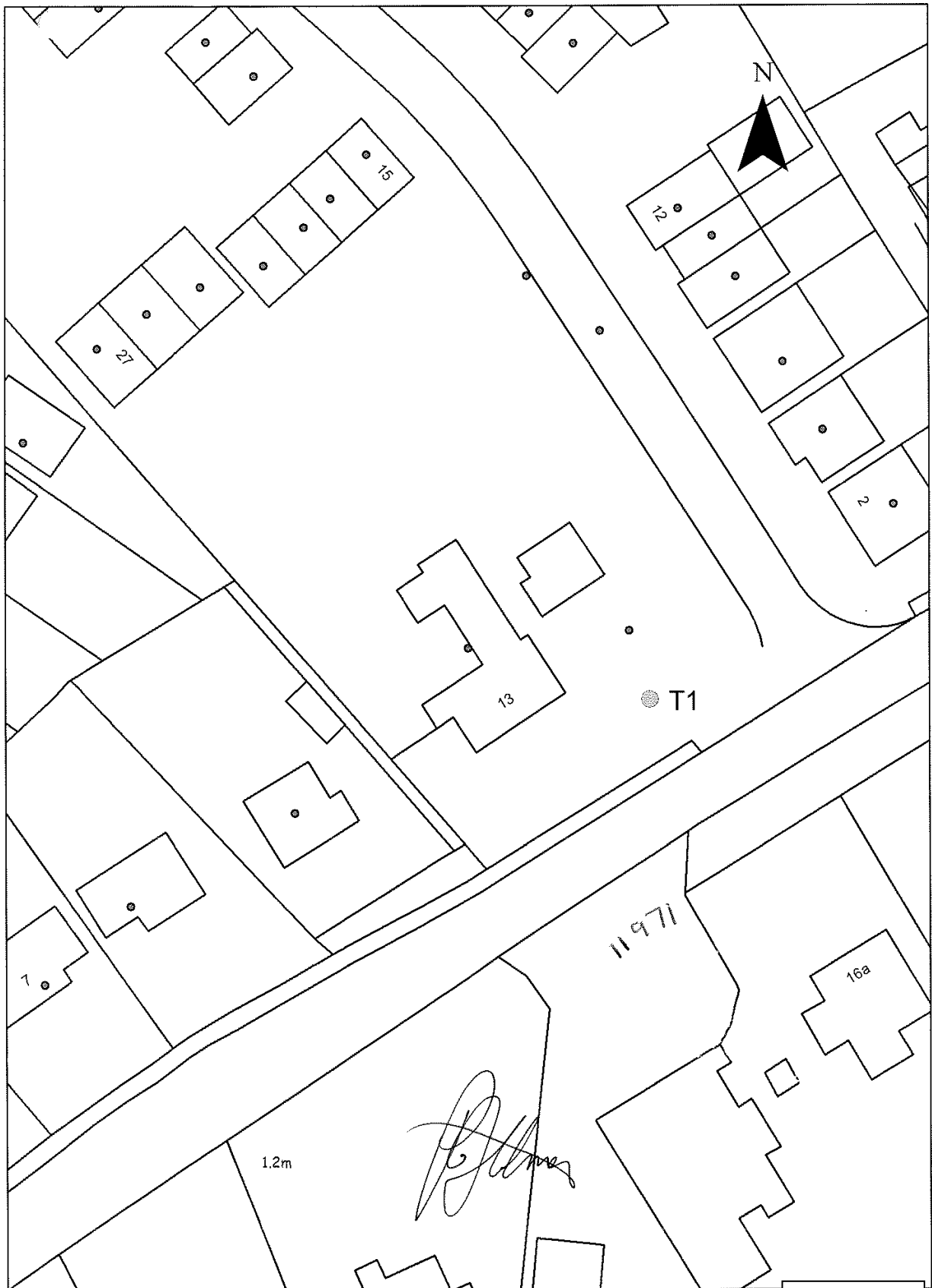
Forward Plan Reference No. (if applicable)	Not applicable
Portfolio Holder(s)	Not applicable
Report Originator	Alison Callaby, Delivery Officer
Contact Officer(s)	Alison Callaby, Delivery Officer
Background Paper(s)	TPO 02/2008 and TPO 02/2013

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 During a site inspection of the weeping willow at 13 Doddington Road Benwick, following reports of wind damage, it was noted that the tree had suffered a major crown failure.
- 1.2 The tree, a Weeping Willow approximately 16.0 metres in height, was twinned-stemmed at 1.2 metres and both stems bifucate at 2.5 metres (west stem) and 3.5 metres (east stem). The two failed stems showed no evidence of decay but had poor stem taper (ratio of length to stem diameter). It was considered likely that the two failed stems were suppressed by the remaining crown leading to drawn form. One of the failed stems came to rest on the second stem leading to its failure.
- 1.3 At the time of inspection it was also noted that the remaining two stems were also of drawn form, the consequence being a multi-stemmed tree, with much of the crown at the top of the stem. The loss of two significant trunks was considered to have led to a change in the physical structure of the tree and its ability to cope with strong winds. There was also a decay pocket on the main stem that constituted a potential weak area.
- 1.4 Our Arboricultural Consultant considered that to retain the tree in a safe condition would result in a tree with a small crown on top of a tall stem and as such the tree would have significantly reduced landscape value.
- 1.5 Given the above and the particular issues in respect of the trees safety the prompt removal of the tree was considered necessary. Nonetheless the Local Planning Authority requested a retrospective application to enable a suitable replacement tree to be agreed thereby ensuring that the site continues to contribute to the area, with the replacement tree again being the subject of a Tree Preservation Order.
- 1.6 Due processes have been followed and a Pin Oak planted at the site, which is now subject to a confirmed Tree Preservation Order under TPO 02/2013

2. ASSESSMENT

- 2.1 The tree to which TPO02/2008 related (T1 on plan attached as Appendix 1) was removed for safety reasons as to bring it back to safe form would negate its visual amenity benefits, as it is no longer on site the TPO relating to the same is no longer required.
- 2.2 In the absence of the tree and given that the replanted Pin Oak is afforded its own protection under TPO 02/2013 the earlier TPO should be formally revoked.



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Developments Service
TPO 02/2008
T1 Willow

Not to scale



Appendix 2 – TPO 02/2013



Created on: 17/04/2013 Scale = 1:1,000	TPO 02/2013 TPO at 13 Doddington Road Benwick T01 Pin Oak	  Fenland District Council
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