

## COMMITTEE REPORT

BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES READING BOROUGH COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE: 10 October 2018 TITLE: PROPOSED WORK TO ONE PLANE TREE AT WEST FRYERNE, PARKSIDE ROAD, READING	ITEM NO. 8
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Ward: Minster

### RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed tree works be approved

#### 1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report to and seek approval from Committee for proposed works to one Council Plane tree (T2) at West Fryerne, Parkside Road, Reading, subject to Tree Preservation Order No. 6/07 (TPO plan attached - Appendix 1).

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 15 August 2018 an application was received from Reading Borough Council's Tree Officer in Parks seeking consent for works to one Plane tree at the entrance to the car park of West Fryerne, Parkside Road (reference 181488/TPO).
- 2.2 Whilst West Fryerne itself (flats) are privately owned, the car park is Council land; the Plane tree in question being at the entrance to the car park.

#### 3. APPLICATION PROCESS

- 3.1 As the Council owned and maintained tree in question is subject to a Tree Preservation Order, a formal application is required for these works to be approved.
- 3.2 The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires applications for works to Council owned or maintained trees to be decided by a Committee of the Council which is not responsible for managing the land to which the application relates.
- 3.3 The law also requires a public notice to be displayed for at least 21 days giving details of the proposed works and contact details for any comments to be sent. A site Notice was attached to a tree and to a lamppost within West Fryerne on 22 August 2018 and left for the required period.

#### 4. PROPOSED WORKS

- 4.1 The application seek approval for the following works:

- T2 Plane - crown reduce by 1-2m, back to suitable growing points, to reduce overall weight on extended limbs in order to alleviate stress on the canopy to reduce the likelihood of failure; remove major dead wood (over 50mm diameter).
- 4.2 Removal of dead wood is exempt from requiring permission under the TPO but has been included to cover the requirement to give formal notice of such works.
- 5. RECOMMENDATION**
- 5.1 Officers have inspected the tree and the works proposed are considered to be reasonable works to manage the risk presented by the tree. No objections or comments were received as a result of the public notice. It is therefore recommended that the works be approved.
- 6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**
- 6.1 Preparing, serving confirmation and contravention of TPO's are services dealt with by the Council's Legal Section.
- 6.2 Applications for works to Council owned TPO trees are to be decided by a Committee and one which is not responsible for managing the land to which the application relates.
- 7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**
- 7.1 Administrative.
- 8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**
- 8.1 In determining this application the Committee is required to have regard to its obligations under the Equality Act 2010. The key equalities protected characteristics include age and disability. There is no indication or evidence (including from consultation on the application) that the protected groups have or will have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to proposed tree works.  
In terms of the key equalities protected characteristics it is considered there would be no significant adverse impacts as a result of the tree works.
- 9. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**
- 9.1 The aim of TPO's is to secure trees of high amenity value for present and future generations to enjoy. Trees also have high environmental benefits through their absorption of polluted air, creation of wildlife habitats, reduction of surface water runoff and flooding caused by heavy rain, provision of shelter and shading and reduction of noise. The Council's adopted Tree Strategy highlights the importance of the use of TPOs in the retention and protection of important trees in the Borough. Policy CS38 of the Council's Core Strategy relating to Trees, Hedges and Woodlands also reinforces the need to continue making new and retaining existing Tree Preservation Orders.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

10.1 Planning Sections street index of TPO's

10.2 Register of Tree Preservation Orders

10.3 Plan for TPO 6/07 relating to West Fryerne, Parkside Road, Reading (Appendix 1)

Officer: Sarah Hanson



Appendix 1

