

Planning Applications Committee

19 July 2023



Reading
Borough Council
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Title	PROPOSED TREE WORK TO PROTECTED, COUNCIL TREES ON BERKELEY AVENUE
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report status	Public report
Report author	Sarah Hanson, Natural Environment Officer
Lead councillor	Councillor Micky Leng, Lead Councillor for Planning and Assets
Corporate priority	Healthy Environment
Recommendations	The Committee is asked: 1. To approve the proposed tree works

1. Executive summary

- 1.1. To report to Committee proposed work to four London Plane trees on Berkeley Avenue, adjacent to St Pauls Court; those being T12-T15 of TPO 2/05 (copy of TPO plan attached – Appendix 1). Officer photographs are provided in Appendix 2.

2. Policy context

- 2.1. The Council's new Corporate Plan has established three themes for the years 2022/25. These themes are:

- Healthy Environment
- Thriving Communities
- Inclusive Economy

- 2.2. These themes are underpinned by “Our Foundations” explaining the ways we work at the Council:

- People first
- Digital transformation
- Building self-reliance
- Getting the best value
- Collaborating with others

- 2.3. Full details of the Council's Corporate Plan and the projects which will deliver these priorities are published on the [Council's website](#). These priorities and the Corporate Plan demonstrate how the Council meets its legal obligation to be efficient, effective and economical.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 4 May 2023 an application was received from Reading Borough Council's Arboricultural Manager in Streetscene seeking consent for works to four London Plane trees on Berkeley Avenue (application reference 230601). The works proposed are:

- Crown lift to 3m above ground level on the St Pauls Court side & 6 m on the roadside,

- Prune to provide 3-4m clearance from St Pauls Court

2.2 As the Council-maintained trees in question are subject to a Tree Preservation Order, a formal tree works application is required for these works to be approved.

2.3 The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires applications for works to protected 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.

2.4 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 the railings on Berkeley Avenue in front of the trees on 22 May 2023 and left for the required period.

3. Result of consultation

3.1 No objections or comments were received.

4. Conclusion and recommendation

4.1 The works proposed are not considered to be harmful to the trees' appearance or future health and are reasonable works in order to appropriately manage the trees for highway clearance and to avoid conflict with St Pauls Court. No objections or comments were received as a result of the public notice. It is therefore recommended that the works be approved.

5. Legal implications

5.1 Preparing, serving confirmation and contravention of TPO's are services dealt with by the Council's Legal Section.

6. Financial implications

6.1 None.

7. Equality impact assessment

7.1 None required.

8. Contribution to strategic aims

8.1 The aim of the TPO's is to secure trees of high amenity value for present and future generations to enjoy. Trees have multiple environmental benefits creating cleaner, greener and more attractive places to live. This contributes to creating a healthy environment as identified as one of the themes of the Council's Corporate Plan. See Section 2 of this report for more information.

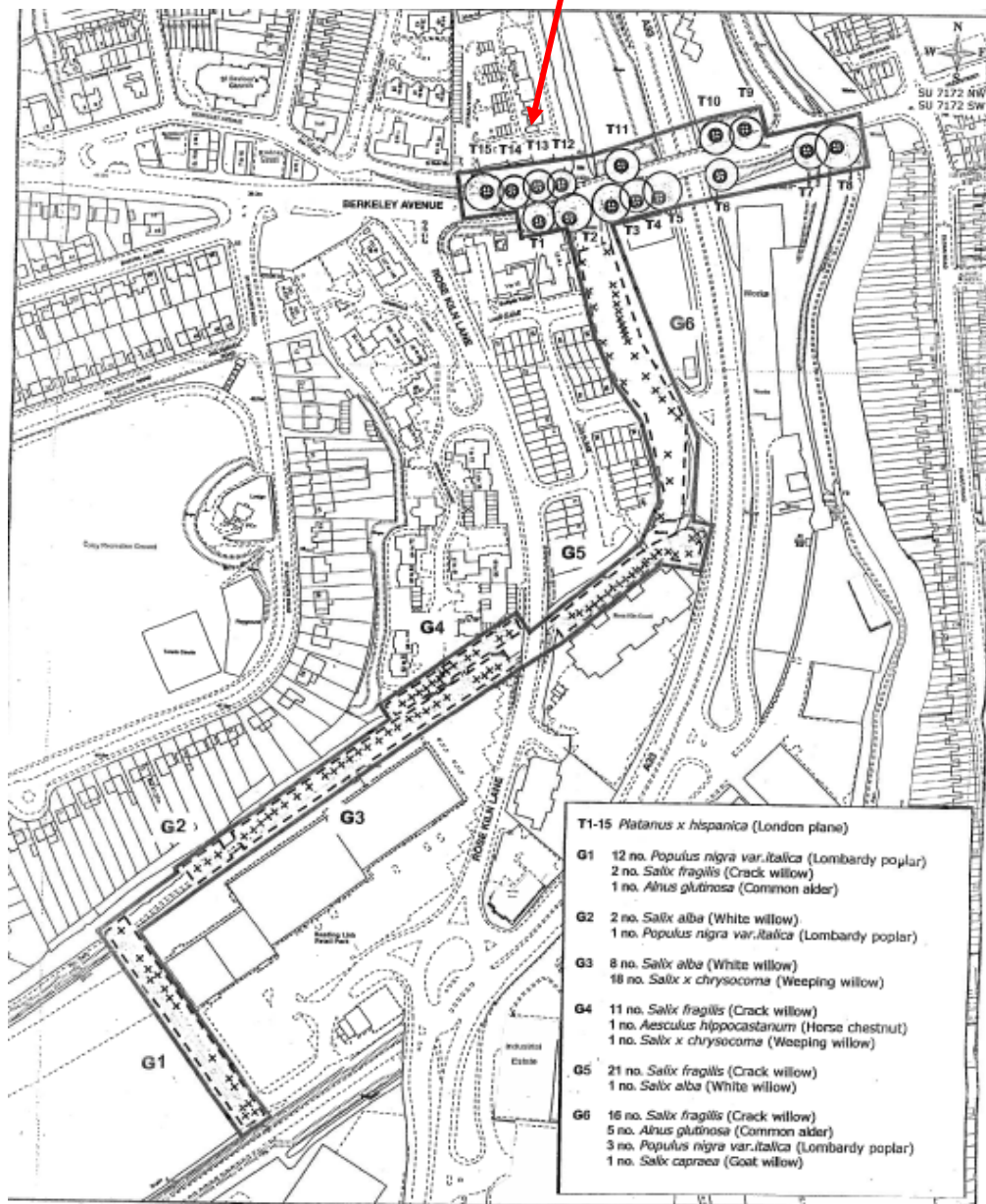
9. Environmental & Climate implications

9.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers). Trees have multiple environmental benefits that include flood alleviation, wildlife benefits, air pollution mitigation and air cooling. The proposed works are not expected to substantially impact the trees' contribution to these multiple environmental benefits

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

10.1 Register of Tree Preservation Orders

Appendix 1 - TPO 2/05 (plan)



Title: Tree Preservation Order: Land adjacent to Holy Brook rear of Reading Link Retail Park and Rose Kiln Court; Rose Kiln Lane and land between Rose Kiln Lane and Elgar Road, Berkeley Avenue, Reading

Drg.No.: D1823 Date: OCT 2004

Scale at A3 1:500

Produced by GIS & Mapping Services Ref: 31419\



Appendix 2 - Officer photographs

