

Planning Applications Committee

10 January 2024



Reading
Borough Council
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Title	PROPOSED TREE WORK TO ONE PROTECTED COUNCIL TREE OUTSIDE 30 CHAZEY ROAD
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
Ward	Caversham Heights
Recommendations	The Committee is asked: 1. To approve the proposed tree works

1. Executive summary

- 1.1. To report to Committee on proposed work to one Japanese pagoda tree; that being T1 of TPO 24/06 (copy of TPO plan attached – Appendix 1).

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 The tree is one of three in a row, of the same species, the other two being on private land. Following concerns from the resident of 30 Chazey Road, an inspection was carried out by Reading Borough Council's Tree Surveyor in

Streetscene, which identified fungal brackets at the base, alongside cavities. On 7 December 2023 an application was received from the Tree Surveyor seeking consent for works to one Japanese pagoda tree (application reference 231777). The works proposed are:

- Overall significant crown reduction, back to secondary growth points, as indicated below:



- 2.2 The aim of the work is to make the tree safe whilst retaining it in some form due to the rarity of the species in the borough. It is not known whether the tree will respond favourably to the significant work, particularly given its sub-optimal condition, but it is considered an important enough specimen to try, as opposed to felling in the first instance.
- 2.3 As the Council-maintained tree in question is subject to a Tree Preservation Order, a formal tree works application is required for the 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 tree on 12 December 2023 and left for the required period.

3. Result of consultation

- 3.1 Due to the urgent nature of the works, it needed to be considered at a Committee as soon as possible, meaning this report was completed prior to the end of the consultation period. An update on any public comments will be provided at Planning Applications Committee.

4. Conclusion and recommendation

- 4.1 The works proposed are necessary to make the tree safe and whilst there is a risk the tree may not respond favourably, it is considered that it should be done, as opposed to felling, given the rarity of the species. Subject to no substantive objections or comments being received as a result of the public notice, it is 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 of this report. It is understood that works to the tree would be funded by the Council from existing budgets.

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).
- 9.2 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, as the intention of the works is to enable the tree to be retained in preference to felling.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 10.1 Register of Tree Preservation Orders

Appendix 1 - TPO 24/06 (plan)



CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY OF
THE ORIGINAL

CTRO

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY
READING BOROUGH CO
CIVIC OFFICES, CIVIC CL...
READING RG1 1TD

CHAZEY ROAD

1, T2, T3 - Sophora japonica (Pagoda tree)

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

23 FEB 2006

E TREE PRESERVATION ORDER:- 30-36 CHAZEY ROAD, CAVERSHAM, READING ENVIRONMENT

NO E2351	DATE JANUARY 2006
WN BY EW33967	SCALE 1:500

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BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLANNING SUPPORT TEAM