

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Planning Committee

22 July 2020

AUTHOR/S: Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development

TPO Number: TPO 0002 (1978)

Parish(es): Caxton

Proposal: Serve a provisional Tree Preservation Order

Site address: Land at Bourn Road, Caxton

Recommendation: Tree Preservation Order to be served

Committee Site Visit: No

Presenting Officer: Miriam Hill, Trees Officer

Application brought to Committee because: It is required to under the Council Scheme of Delegation

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The proposal is to reserve part of an existing TPO 0002 (1978).
- 1.2 Local Authorities are advised to reassess existing Orders from time to time to ensure that the protection is still merited, and the Order contains up-to-date information. The existing Tree Preservation Order (TPO) dates from 1978 and some of the trees it protected do not exist now. Reserving the TPO will allow the remaining trees to be protected for the future.
- 1.3 There are two trees of value remaining and reserving a TPO will protect them for the future.
- 1.4 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the provisional TPO comes before Planning Committee for permission to reserve a TPO.

2.0 Relevant Law

- 2.1 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Part VIII
Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012
Planning Act 2008 Section 192
Localism Act 2011 Part 6

3.0 Consultations

- 3.1 The Parish Council are aware that South Cambs are reviewing the existing Orders and potentially making new Orders to better reflect the current treescape.

3.2 The formal consultation stage occurs when a provisional Order is served.

4.0 Site and Surroundings

4.1 The trees stand within a field at the junction of Bourn Road and Royston Road. This is a main entrance into the village of Caxton.

5.0 Proposal

5.1 The proposal is to serve a provisional TPO on those with an interest in the land and invite those parties an opportunity to submit objections, comments or representations. The responses will be considered and aid the decision to amend, confirm or not confirm the Order.

5.2 Should the new Order be confirmed, the old Order will be revoked to ensure the Councils records are maintained and in good administrative order.

6.0 Assessment of the trees

6.1 The key consideration is, is it 'expedient in the interests of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees or woodlands in their area'.

6.2 Amenity is not defined in law and therefore it is left for local authorities to exercise their judgement. The trees must have reasonable health, visibility and individual, collective or wider impact. Other factors may be considered, such as importance to nature conservation or response to climate change, but only if the trees achieve the basic qualifying factors.

6.3 To record the value of the trees to the District a 'TPO Evaluation Sheet' has been drawn up. This identifies each tree and records their merits.

6.4 The trees appear to be in reasonable health, are visible from a public place and are aesthetically pleasing. The Wellingtonia is a 'landmark' tree, notable as an unusual species. The oak has the potential to be a magnificent tree in future decades.

7.0 Recommendation

7.1 The Tree Officer recommends that the Committee APPROVES the issuing of a provisional TPO.

8.0 Background Papers:

10.1 The following list contains links to the documents on the Council's website and / or an indication as to where hard copies can be inspected.

- CAXTON Bourn Road TPO Evaluation Sheet
- CAXTON Bourn Road Tree Location Plan

Report Author:

Miriam Hill

Trees Officer

Telephone Number: 07514 922 461