

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director Partnerships, Planning and Policy	Development Control Committee	11 January 2011

OBJECTION TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO.10 (ABBEY VILLAGE) 2010

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to decide whether or not to confirm the above Tree Preservation Order (TPO) with or without modification in light of the objection received

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That Tree Preservation Order No. 10 (Abbey Village) 2010 be confirmed.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. The purpose of this report is to decide whether to confirm the above Tree Preservation Order with or without modification. The Order was placed on the tree following a request to fell the tree.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

4. It is recommended that the Order be confirmed as the intention was to fell a healthy mature tree in a prominent position within the Abbey Village Conservation Area which has significant amenity value.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. The Council could have allowed the felling of the tree however this would have led to the loss of a tree with significant amenity value.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

6. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances		Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	X
Involving people in their communities		Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	

BACKGROUND

7. This objection relates to a sycamore tree standing in the side garden of 127 Bolton Road, Abbey Village within the Abbey Village Conservation Area. An application was received to fell the tree together with an Ash tree which required consent due to the trees being within a Conservation Area. It was considered expedient to protect the sycamore tree but to allow the removal of the ash and an order was made on that basis.

OBJECTION

8. A letter of objection has been received from the owner of the property on the following grounds:
- Health and safety risk to users of the garden and public on footpath
 - Could cause damage to property due to close proximity
 - Obscures light to property
 - Could be unsafe due to splitting of trunk

In response to the objection the Council's arboriculturist has the following comments.

The trunk of the Ash is within a metre of the gable end of the public house next door and so was not considered worthy of retention due to the inherent problems raised by this. The Sycamore is more central between the properties and although the canopy is close to the property which can affect light levels, this is easily remedied with some minor pruning back.

The Sycamore is a mature specimen and is very prominent from the highway, giving it a correspondingly high amenity value. It has been pruned in the past and advice has been given that the TPO would not preclude any reasonable pruning works.

The tree is mature but not senescent and can have many good years ahead of it. There is no sign of any major problems, no cavities or fungal fruiting bodies and the root plate showed no signs of movement.

A reference is made to splitting of the trunk rendering it unsafe. I could see no evidence of this on my visit, although there is an inclusion of the two main stems that could be mistaken for a split.

I can see no Arboricultural reason for the removal of this tree.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

9. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		No significant implications in this area	X

Lesley Anne Fenton
Director Partnerships, Planning and Policy

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Peter Willacy	5226	21 December 2010	

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Chorley Council Tree Preservation Order No. 10 (Abbey Village)	October 2010	TPO No. 10 (Abbey Village)	Civic Offices, Union Street