

**UPDATE ON TREE MATTERS**

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**1.0 Introduction**

1.1 This report seeks to update Members on recent Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) that have been served since 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017, along with a summary on some of the other aspects of the work in relation to trees.

**2.0 Summary of Work**

2.1 Set out in table 1 is a breakdown of the numbers of the various types of applications or work types carried out during the period.

2.2 Members will be aware that tree work applications have to be responded to within 6 weeks in the case of a conservation area notification, and 8 weeks in the case of a TPO tree work application. If responses are not received within these timescales the work is deemed to be acceptable and can be carried out.

2.3 There is a requirement for planning applications to be responded to well within the 8 or 13 week time period, to ensure applications can be dealt with within the requisite time period. There is also a requirement to respond to discharge of conditions with a specified time period, to ensure development can commence.

2.4 Although not time specific, the serving of a new TPO is often a matter of urgency in order to prevent the trees being felled or inappropriate pruning taking place. Once served there are time limits for objections to be received, and responses to be sent and the matter placed before the Planning Committee. If this is not all completed within 6 months of the serving then the TPO will lapse.

2.5 In addition to this there have been a number of pre application site visits undertaken for both tree work applications and planning applications, as well as the general day to day tree related enquiries that have to be addressed during the course of the day.

Table 1 – Breakdown of tree related applications and work received since May 2017

	<b>Numbers</b>
<b>Planning Applications</b>	01/05/2017 to 31/10/2017
Planning Applications considered	192
Pre-Applications considered	30
Applications to discharge tree and landscape conditions	15
<b>New Tree Preservation Orders</b>	
New TPO's served	4
TPO's with objections received (Planning Committee Confirmation)	1
Still to be confirmed	0
<b>Tree Work Applications/Notifications</b>	
Conservation Area Notifications approved	113
Conservation Area Notification Refused (TPO Served)	0
Conservation Area Notification Pending	0
Tree Preservation Order applications approved	44
Tree Preservation Order applications refused/partially refused	Part refused – 5 Refused - 2
Tree Preservation Order applications appealed	1
Tree Preservation Order application pending	0

### **3.0 Details of TPO's Served and Confirmed since May 2017**

- 3.1 4 TPOs has been served since May 2017. Where no objections have been received they have been confirmed under delegated powers. When objections have been received these will need to be considered by the Planning Committee, as to whether or not the TPO is confirmed. Since May 2017, 4 TPOs have been confirmed under delegated powers with 1 confirmed at Planning Committee.
- 3.3 It is worth noting that we have had a marked increase, almost 15%, in the amount of tree work applications to 31/10/2017 in this calendar year. It is not known what the reason is for this increase but this will continue to be monitored for any impact on resources and the ability to deal with the applications.
- 3.2 We have received, and carried out, 1 appeal relating to decisions regarding works to protected trees. This appeal has been dismissed. We currently have 1 appeal in process.

### **4.0 Recommendation**

- 4.1 That members of the Planning Committee note the contents of the report.