

UPDATE ON TREE MATTERS

Prepared by Richard Fisher, Arboricultural Officer

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report seeks to update Members on recent Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) that have been served between 1st May 2019 – 31st October 2019, 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 in a timely manner

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 1st May 2019

	Numbers
Planning Applications	
Planning Applications considered	179
Pre-Applications considered	28
Applications to discharge tree and landscape conditions	31
New Tree Preservation Orders	
New TPO's served	6
TPO's with objections received (Planning Committee Confirmation)	2
Approved under delegated powers	2
Still to be confirmed	2
Tree Work Applications/Notifications	
Conservation Area Notifications approved	85
Conservation Area Notification Refused (TPO Served)	0
Conservation Area Notification Pending	0
Tree Preservation Order applications approved	48
Tree Preservation Order applications Refused	3
Partially refused	2
Tree Preservation Order applications appealed	0
Tree Preservation Order application pending	0

3.0 Details of TPO's Served and Confirmed since May 2019

- 3.1 6 TPOs have been served since May 2019. 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 2019, 2 TPOs have been confirmed under delegated powers, 2 have been confirmed by planning committee with 2 awaiting confirmation.
- 3.2 Although the original refusals were made outside of the time period covered by this report, 2 appeals against the refusal of tree works were received in October. The details are as follows:
1. An appeal was received for the refusal to remove 2 Horse Chestnut at All Saints Church, Stanhoe. The inspector upheld the appeal, due to the possible harm caused to the Grade 1 listed Church, allowing for the removal of the trees, with a condition to re-plant 2 Horse Chestnut.
 2. An appeal was received for the refusal to remove 1 Scots Pine at the entrance to Hyde Close, Bircham Newton. The inspector dismissed the appeal due to a lack of evidence, both written and physical, that the Scots Pine was in danger of failure.

4.0 Recommendation

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

