

PLANNING COMMITTEE
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 30th April 2021 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 between 1 May 2021 – 31 October 2021

	Numbers
Planning Applications	
Planning Applications considered	189
Pre-Applications considered	27
Applications to discharge tree and landscape conditions	18
New Tree Preservation Orders	
New TPO's served	16
TPO's with objections received (Planning Committee Confirmation)	2
Still to be confirmed	4
Tree Work Applications/Notifications	
Conservation Area Notifications approved	120
Conservation Area Notification Refused (TPO Served)	2
Conservation Area Notification Pending	0
Tree Preservation Order applications approved	63
Tree Preservation Order applications refused/partially refused	12 Partial 3 Refused
Tree Preservation Order applications appealed	1
Tree Preservation Order application pending	0

3.0 Details of TPO's Served and Confirmed since 30th April 2021

3.1 16 TPO's have been served since 30th April 2021. 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 30th April 2021, 10 TPOs have been confirmed under delegated powers with 1 confirmed at Planning Committee in November 2021, 1 overturned in November 2021 & 4 awaiting consideration.

3.2 We have received, and carried out, 1 appeal relating to decisions regarding works to protected trees which is still in process.

4.0 Recommendation

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

