

**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 along with a summary of other aspects of the work in relation to trees & planning.

**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 there are two types of tree work applications.

2.3 Notifications for work to trees in a Conservation Area have to be responded to within 6 weeks, if responses are not received within these timescales the work is deemed to be acceptable and can be carried out.

2.4 Works to trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), when the target date is 8 weeks.

2.5 Five days written notice is required where protected trees that have died or need to be felled due to their very poor condition. These are also recorded as applications under the suffix TDD. Replacement trees can then be enforced if suitable.

2.6 Tree and Landscape related consultations to planning applications have a target date for response of 21 days to allow the overall target date of 8 or 13 weeks to be met.

2.7 There is also a requirement to respond to discharge of planning conditions with a specified time period, so as not to unnecessarily delay commencement of approved development.

2.8 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 protection given to the trees by the TPO lapses, and the only way to protect the trees is to begin the process again.

2.9 Of equal importance are the pre-application appointments and meetings both for tree work applications and planning applications, as well as responses to the general day to day tree related enquiries by members of the public. Trees are very high profile and members of the public and many local organisations look to the Council to provide help and guidance on tree matters. Officers always seek to use these enquiries as an opportunity for the promotion of good tree care and support for internal and external stakeholders and interest groups.

*Table 1 – Breakdown of tree related applications and work received between 1 November 2023 and 30 April 2024*

	<b>Numbers</b>
<b>Planning Applications</b>	
Planning Applications considered	285
Pre-Applications considered	18
Applications to discharge tree and landscape conditions	40
<b>New Tree Preservation Orders</b>	
New TPO's - Served	5
TPO's without objections confirmed	2
TPO's with objections yet to be confirmed or not confirmed	3
<b>Tree Work Applications/Conservation Area Notifications</b>	
Conservation Area Notifications approved	125
Conservation Area Notification Refused (TPO Served)	0
Conservation Area Notification Pending	
Tree Preservation Order applications approved	36
Tree Preservation Order applications refused/partially/split decisions	0
refused	2
Tree Preservation Order applications appealed	0

Tree Preservation Order applications pending	0
TDD 5 day notice for dead branches	0
TDD 5 day notice for dead or dangerous tree	1

### **3.0 Details of TPO's Served and Confirmed since February 2014**

- 3.1 5 new Tree Preservation Orders were made between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Where no objections were received, they have been confirmed under delegated powers.
- 3.2 When objections have been received, the Arboricultural Officer will first try to resolve the objection with the objector/s. If the objections cannot be resolved at an officer level, the matter will be brought to the Planning Committee for consideration. Planning Committee will determine whether the order is to be confirmed, not confirmed or confirmed subject to any amendments.
- 3.3 Between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 2 orders were confirmed under delegated powers. There are 3 orders yet to be confirmed.
- 3.4 No appeals were made between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 relating to decisions regarding works to protected trees.

### **4.0 Recommendation**

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

