

UPDATE ON TREE MATTERS

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report updates Members on Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) served between 1st November 2025 and 30th April 2026 and provides a summary of other tree related work undertaken during the last six months.

2.0 Summary of Work

2.1 Table 1 below provides a breakdown of the various categories of tree related applications and work received during the reporting period.

2.2 Members will be aware that there are two principal types of tree work application.

2.3 Notifications for works to trees within a Conservation Area must be determined within six weeks. If a response is not issued within this period, the works may proceed by default.

2.4 Applications for works to trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) have a target determination period of eight weeks.

2.5 Five days written notice is required where protected trees have died or require urgent removal or pruning due to their condition. These notifications are recorded under the suffix TDD. Where appropriate, replacement planting can subsequently be required.

2.6 Tree and landscape consultations relating to planning applications have target response times of either 8 or 13 weeks to ensure planning applications can be determined within the statutory timescales.

2.7 There is also a requirement to respond to applications to discharge tree and landscape related planning conditions within specified timescales, so as not to unnecessarily delay approved development.

2.8 Although not subject to a statutory determination period, the serving of a new TPO is often urgent to prevent the felling of trees or inappropriate pruning works. Once served, there are statutory time limits for objections to be received, responses to be issued and the matter, where necessary, to be considered by the Planning Committee. If the process is not completed within six months, the Order lapses and the process must begin again.

2.9 Pre-application discussions and site meetings relating to both planning applications and tree work proposals remain an important part of the service, together with responding to general tree related enquiries from members of the public. Trees are often highly visible and emotive matters, and officers continue to provide advice and guidance to residents, applicants, agents and other stakeholders, whilst promoting good tree care and management practice.

Table 1 – Breakdown of tree related applications and work received between 1st November 2025 and 30th April 2026

	Numbers
Planning Applications	
Planning Applications considered	110
Pre-Applications considered	35
Applications to discharge tree and landscape conditions	46
New Tree Preservation Orders	
New TPO's made	3
TPO's confirmed without objection, or objections withdrawn	2
TPO's with objections received confirmed by Planning Committee	1 (TPO made in September)
TPO's with objections yet to be confirmed or not confirmed	1
Tree Work Applications/Notifications	
Conservation Area Notifications approved	106
Conservation Area Notification Refused (TPO Served)	2
Conservation Area Notification Pending	14
Tree Preservation Order applications approved	39
Tree Preservation Order applications Refused	6
Partially refused	2

Tree Preservation Order applications appealed	1
Tree Preservation Order application pending	12

3.0 Details of TPO's Served and Confirmed since 1st November 2025

- 3.1 Three new Tree Preservation Orders were made between 1st November 2025 and 30th April 2026. Where no objections are received, Orders may be confirmed under delegated powers. Where objections are received, the matter must be considered by the Planning Committee before a decision is made on whether the TPO should be confirmed.
- 3.2 Of those orders made in this time, two have been confirmed under delegated powers with one awaiting confirmation. One order was confirmed at Planning Committee on 2nd February 2026. That order was made in September 2025.
- 3.3 There have been no appeals against decisions relating to works to protected trees during the reporting period, and there is currently one appeal in progress.

4.0 Recommendation

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

