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| Subject: | Report on an application to undertake works to trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order | Status: | For Publication |
| Report to: | Development Control Committee | Date: | 21 st July 2020 |
| Report of: | Planning Manager | Portfolio Holder: | |
| Key Decision: | <input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/> | General Exception <input type="checkbox"/> | Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Equality Impact Assessment: | Required: | No | Attached: No |
| Biodiversity Impact Assessment | Required: | No | Attached: No |
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| RECOMMENDATION(S) |
| Members are advised to approve the works to the protected trees. |

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. The application is made by Mrs Alsyon Barnes, the Leader of the Council, hence the need to report the application for a decision to the Committee.
- 1.2. The trees are protected by virtue of Tree Preservation Order, reference number T2/E/W26. The trees are situated both in the land at the front of 14 Forest Bank, Forest Bank Road, Crawshawbooth and also on land at a neighbouring property, known as Short Clough Farm on Short Clough Lane.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 An application has been received and given reference number TPO works 2020-0025. The proposal is to crown lift or prune one beech tree and one sycamore tree in the front garden of 14 Forest Bank. There are a further four sycamore trees in a field adjoining the garden, which is under the separate ownership of Short Clough Farm. The Applicant seeks to prune all the further four trees as required. The Applicant states that the adjoining landowner has given

permission to prune the trees which are situated beyond the Applicant's land ownership.

3.0 Assessment

- 3.1 The Council's Consultant Arboriculturalist has inspected the trees and their assessment is as follows. There are six trees in total, two of the trees are in the garden (T1 Beech, T2 Sycamore) whilst the remaining four (T3, T4, T5 and T6 all Sycamore) are in the field.
- 3.2 T1 Beech is nearest to the house and is a large mature tree which appears to be generally sound and in good health. Branches extend significantly towards the house and many hang low over the garden. The crown is also quite dense which exacerbates the shading of the house and garden. It would be reasonable to allow a crown lift, a reduction back from the house and a crown thin.
- 3.3 T2 Sycamore is early mature but has been suppressed by the larger trees around it one of which has been felled, evidenced by the remaining stump and consequently has a one-sided biased crown and lower branches which block light. A formative prune to balance the crown and a crown lift to allow light penetration would be acceptable.
- 3.4 T3 Sycamore is also early mature and is situated close to the boundary fence, it's lower branches block light which a crown lift would help to resolve.
- 3.5 T4 Sycamore is early mature and a crown lift would be acceptable to increase light to the garden.
- 3.6 T5 Sycamore is in the middle of the group of trees in the field but is suppressed by the adjacent trees and no work is necessary.
- 3.7 T6 Sycamore is early mature and the most easterly of the group in the field. It has a crown biased towards the field and the trunk also leans in that direction with low branches. A crown lift and pruning to balance would be reasonable.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 The recommendation in respect of the works to each tree is as follows:

Consent to T1 Beech – Crown lift to gain five metre ground clearance by removal of low-hanging secondary branches back to origin no branch removed to be larger than 100mm in diameter, reduce branches back from

house to the vertical plane of the south edge of the footpath and crown thin by 20%.

T2 Sycamore – Crown lift to five metres and formative prune to balance the crown.

T3 and T4 Sycamore – Crown lift to crown break.

T5 Sycamore – no work is necessary.

T6 Sycamore – Crown lift to six metres and thin south by 20% to balance.

Background Papers

The relevant application number (TPO works 2020-0025) and locations are as outlined in the report and further details can be found on the Council's website or by contacting the Planning Service.