

## Report for Resolution

<b>Report to</b>	Planning Applications Committee 14 May 2009	<b>Item</b> <b>7</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Director – Regeneration and Development	
<b>Subject</b>	Tree Preservation Order 2008 The City of Norwich Council Number 428 Address; nos. 53 & 57 The Avenues, Norwich, NR2 3QR	

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### **Purpose**

To ask the Committee in determining the confirmation of Tree Preservation Order (TPO) 428, (which relates to 2 No. Beech trees; one at 53 and one at 57 The Avenues), to consider both the letter of objection to the Tree Preservation Order and this report.

### **Recommendations**

That the Committee confirms Tree Preservation Order 2008, The City of Norwich Council Number 428, address; nos. 53 & 57 The Avenues, Norwich, NR2 3QR.

### **Financial Consequences**

There are no financial consequences of this report.

### **Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities**

The report helps to achieve the corporate objective to protect and enhance the special qualities of the built and natural environments and the service plan priority of the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Planning.

### **Contact Officers**

Michael Volp, Tree Protection Officer

01603 212546

### **Background Documents**

TPO No. 428 and related correspondence.

Presentation material will also be available at Planning Applications Committee.

# Report

## Introduction

1. The Council served TPO No 428 on 1 December 2008 after the Council's Tree Protection Officer had visited an adjacent property in relation to a request to fell a Birch tree in the back garden of that property and incidentally noted the importance of the two Beech trees in the local street scene and realised that at that time they were unprotected.
2. An order citing the two Beech trees was served so as to preserve them in perpetuity.
3. The council made the Order proactively to ensure continued protection of the street scene and the local amenity.

## Objections and support

4. A copy of the order has been served on the Owners with a copy sent to interested parties. One objection to the order has been received from a next door neighbour.

## Considerations

5. The main objections to the TPO are in reference to the tree at no. 53 and are :-
  - That the tree blocks out daylight
  - That the branches interfere with a telephone wire
  - That leaves from the tree fall into their garden
  - That branches overhang their drive
  - That branches overhang the public footpath
6. The issues described at 5. exist whether the tree is protected by a tree preservation order or not and are issues relating to tree management.
7. Good arboricultural management is generally encouraged and usually permitted on application to the Council although such management cannot be enforced.
8. According to the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006:-

*“Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.”*

## **Human Rights Implications**

9. Under the Human Rights Act, 1998, it is unlawful for a public authority to act in a way, which is incompatible with a convention right.
10. Article 1 of the First Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms is relevant to this matter. It provides that every person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his or her property.
11. No one is to be deprived of property except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law. The State may enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in the general interest.
12. It is the view of the Director of Regeneration and Development that the reason for making the Order is in the public interest, in that the trees form an important part of the amenity of the area, contribute to the encouragement of biodiversity and should therefore receive such protection as the law affords.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF NORWICH  
FORM OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (TREES) REGULATIONS 1999  
THE CITY OF NORWICH TREE PRESERVATION ORDER, 2008  
CITY OF NORWICH NUMBER 428

The City Council of Norwich, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Sections 198, 201 and 203 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 hereby make the following Order –

Citation

1. This Order may be cited as **Tree Preservation Order, 2008**  
**City of Norwich Number 428.**  
**Nos. 53 & 57 The Avenues, Norwich, NR2 3QR.**

Interpretation

2. In this Order “the authority” means the City Council of Norwich and unless the context otherwise requires, any reference in this Order to a numbered section is a reference to the section so numbered in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

(Application of Section 201)

3. The authority hereby direct that Section 201 (provisional tree preservation orders) shall apply to this Order and, accordingly, this Order shall take effect provisionally on **1<sup>ST</sup> December 2008.**

Prohibited Acts in relation to trees

4. Without prejudice to subsections (6) and (7) of Section 198 (power to make tree preservation orders) or subsection (1) of Section 200 (tree preservation orders: Forestry Commissioners), and subject to Article 5, no person shall –
  - (a) cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or wilfully destroy; or
  - (b) cause or permit the cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, or wilful damage or wilful destruction of, any tree specified in Schedule 1 to this Order or comprised in a group of trees or in a woodland so specified, except with the consent of the authority and, where such consent is given subject to conditions, in accordance with those conditions.

## Exemptions

### 5.1 Nothing in Article 4 shall prevent –

- (a) the cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of a tree by or at the request of a statutory undertaker, where the land on which the tree is situated is operational land of the statutory undertaker and the work is necessary –
  - (i) in the interests of the safe operation of the undertaking;
  - (ii) in connection with the inspection, repair or renewal of any sewers, mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus of the statutory undertaker;  
or
  - (iii) to enable the statutory undertaker to carry out development permitted by or under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995
- (aa) the cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of a tree where that work is required to enable the implementation of an order made or confirmed under paragraph 8(1) or paragraph 15(1) of Schedule 1 to the Highways Act 1980 (procedures for making or confirming certain orders and schemes);
- (ab) the cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of a tree where that work is urgently necessary for national security purposes;
- (b) the cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of a tree cultivated for the production of fruit in the course of a business or trade where such work is in the interests of that business or trade;
- (c) the pruning, in accordance with good horticultural practice, of any tree cultivated for the production of fruit;
- (d) the cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of a tree where that work is required to enable a person to implement a planning permission (other than an outline planning permission or, without prejudice to paragraph (a)(iii), a permission granted by or under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995) granted on an application under Part III of the Act, or deemed to have been granted (whether for the purposes of that Part or otherwise);
- (e) the cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of a tree by or at the request of the Environment Agency to enable the Agency to carry out development permitted by or under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995;

- (f) the cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of a tree by or at the request of a drainage body where that tree interferes, or is likely to interfere, with the exercise of any of the functions of that body in relation to the maintenance, improvement or construction of watercourses or of drainage works, and for this purpose 'drainage body' and 'drainage' have the same meanings as in the Land Drainage Act 1991; or
- (g) without prejudice to Section 198(6)(b), the felling or lopping of a tree or the cutting back of its roots by or at the request of, or in accordance with a notice served by, a licence holder under paragraph 9 of Schedule 4 to the Electricity Act 1989.

5.2 In paragraph (1), 'statutory undertaker' means any of the following –

a person authorised by any enactment to carry on any railway, light railway, tramway, road transport, water transport, canal, inland navigation, dock, harbour, pier or lighthouse undertaking, or any undertaking for the supply of hydraulic power,

a relevant airport operator (within the meaning of Part V of the Airports Act 1986,

the holder of a licence under Section 6 of the Electricity Act 1989,

a public gas transporter,

the holder of a licence under Section 7 of the Telecommunications Act 1984 to whom the telecommunications code (within the meaning of that Act) is applied,

a water or sewerage undertaker,

the Civil Aviation Authority or a body acting on behalf of that Authority,

the Post Office.

## 6. Application of Provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

- 6.1 The provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 relating to registers, applications, permissions and appeals mentioned in column (1) of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to this Order shall have effect, in relation to consents under this Order and applications for such consent, subject to the adaptations and modifications mentioned in column (2)
- 6.2 The provisions referred to in paragraph (1), as so adapted and modified, are set out in Part 2 of that Schedule.

## Directions as to Replanting

- 7.1 Where consent is granted under this Order for the felling in the course of forestry operations of any part of a woodland area, the authority may give to the owner of the land on which that part is situated ('the relevant land') a direction in writing

specifying the manner in which and the time within which he shall replant the relevant land.

- 7.2 Where a direction is given under paragraph (1) and trees on the relevant land are felled (pursuant to the consent), the owner of that land shall replant it in accordance with the direction.
- 7.3 A direction under paragraph (1) may include requirements as to –
- (a) species;
  - (b) number of trees per hectare;
  - (c) the preparation of the relevant land prior to the replanting; and
  - (d) the erection of fencing necessary for the protection of the newly planted trees.

### Compensation

- 8.1 If, on a claim under this article, a person establishes that loss or damage has been caused or incurred in consequence of –
- (a) the refusal of any consent required under this Order; or
  - (b) the grant of any such consent subject to conditions,
- he shall, subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), be entitled to compensation from the authority.
- 8.2 No claim, other than a claim made under paragraph (3), may be made under this article -
- (a) if more than 12 months have elapsed since the date of the authority's decision or, where such a decision is the subject of an appeal to the Secretary of State, the date of the final determination of the appeal; or
  - (b) if the amount in respect of which the claim would otherwise have been made is less than £500.
- 8.3 Where the authority refuse consent under this Order for the felling in the course of forestry operations of any part of a woodland area, they shall not be required to pay compensation to any person other than the owner of the land; and such compensation shall be limited to an amount equal to any depreciation in the value of the trees which is attributable to deterioration in the quality of the timber in consequence of the refusal.
- 8.4 In any other case, no compensation shall be payable to a person –
- (a) for loss of development value or other diminution in the value of the land;
  - (b) for loss or damage which, having regard to the application and the documents and particulars accompanying it was not reasonably

foreseeable when consent was refused or was granted subject to conditions;

- (c) for loss or damage reasonably foreseeable by that person and attributable to his failure to take reasonable steps to avert the loss or damage or to mitigate its extent; or
- (d) for costs incurred in appealing to the Secretary of State against the refusal of any consent required under this Order or the grant of any such consent subject to conditions.

8.5 Subsections (3) to (5) of Section 11 (terms of compensation on refusal of licence) of the Forestry Act 1967 shall apply to the assessment of compensation under paragraph (3) as it applies to the assessment of compensation where a felling licence is refused under Section 10 (application for felling licence and decision of Commissioners thereon) of that Act as if for any reference to a felling licence there were substituted a reference to a consent required under this Order and for the reference to the Commissioners there were substituted a reference to the authority.

8.6 In this article –

‘development value’ means an increase in value attributable to the prospect of development; and in relation to any land, the development of it shall include the clearing of it; and

‘owner’ has the meaning given to it by Section 34 of the Forestry Act 1967.

[Application to Trees to be Planted pursuant to a Condition]

[9] In relation to the tree(s) identified in the first column of Schedule 1 by the letter ‘C’, being [a tree] [trees] to be planted pursuant to a condition (being a condition imposed under paragraph (a) of Section 197 (planning permission to include appropriate provision for preservation and planting of trees)), this Order takes effect as from the time when [that tree is planted] [those trees are planted].]

DATED this 1st day of December,  
two thousand and eight.

THE CORPORATE SEAL of THE            )  
 CITY COUNCIL of NORWICH            )  
 Was hereunto affixed in the        )  
 Presence of                                )

.....

Authorised by the Council



SCHEDULE 1

SPECIFICATION OF TREES

Trees specified individually  
(encircled in black on the map)

Reference on Maps	Description	Situation
<b>T1</b>	<b>Beech</b>	<b>In the front garden of 53 The Avenues, Norwich.</b>
<b>T2</b>	<b>Beech</b>	<b>In the front garden of 57 The Avenues, Norwich.</b>

Trees specified by reference to an area  
(within a black dotted line on the map)

Reference on Map	Description	Situation
<b>None.</b>		

Groups of Trees  
(within a broken black line on the map)

Reference on Map	Description	Situation
<b>None.</b>		

Woodlands  
(within a continuous black line on the map)

Reference on Map	Description	Situation
<b>None</b>		

SCHEDULE 2

PART 1

Provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990  
Applied with adaptations or modifications

**Provisions of the  
Town and Country  
Planning Act 1990**

**Adaptation or Modification**

Section 69  
(Registers)

(a) In subsection (1) –  
(i) omit  
“, in such manner as may be prescribed by a development order,”,  
“such” in the second place where it appears, and  
“as may be so prescribed”, and  
(ii) substitute “matters relevant to tree preservation orders made by the authority” for “applications for planning permission”.

(b) In subsection (2) –  
(i) after “contain” insert, “as regards each such order”; and  
(ii) for paragraphs (a) and (b) substitute –  
“(a) details of every application under the order and of the authority’s decision (if any) in relation to each such application, and  
(b) a statement as to the subject-matter of every appeal under the order and of the date and nature of the Secretary of State’s determination of it”.  
(c) Omit subsections (3) and (4) (as required by section 198(4))

Section 70  
(determination  
of applications:  
general  
considerations)

(a) In subsection (1) –  
(i) substitute –  
“Subject to subsections (1A) and (1B), where” for “Where”  
.....”the authority” for “a local planning authority”  
.....”consent under a tree preservation order for “planning permission”  
.....where those words first appear; and “consent under the order” for “planning permission “ in both of the other places where those words appear;  
(ii) after “think fit”, insert –  
“(including conditions limiting the duration of the consent or requiring the replacement of the trees)”; and  
(iii) omit “subject to sections 91 and 92.”.  
  
(b) After subsection (1) insert –  
(1A) Where an application relates to an area of woodland, the authority shall grant consent so far as accords with the practice

of good forestry, unless they are satisfied that the granting of consent would fail to secure the maintenance of the special character of the woodland or the woodland character of the area.

(1B) Where the authority grant consent for the felling of trees in a woodland area they shall not impose conditions requiring replacement where such felling is carried out in the course of forestry operations (but may give directions for securing replanting).

(c) Omit subsections (2) and (3)

Section 75  
(effect of  
planning  
permission)

(a) In subsection (1) substitute –  
(i) “Any” for the words from “Without” to “any”;  
(ii) “consent under a tree preservation order” for “planning permission to develop land”;  
(iii) “the consent” for “the permission” and  
(iv) “the land to which the order relates” for “the land”.

(b) Omit subsections (2) and (3)

Section 78  
(right to appeal  
against planning  
decisions and  
failure to take  
such decisions)

(a) In subsection (1) substitute –  
(i) “the authority” for a “local planning authority”;  
(ii) “consent under a tree preservation order” for “planning permission” in the first place where those words appear;  
(iii) “consent under such an order” for “planning permission” in the second place where those words appear;  
(iv) for paragraph (c) substitute –  
...“(c) give a direction under a tree preservation order, or refuse an application for any consent, agreement or approval of that authority required by such a direction; or  
....(d) fail to determine any such application as is referred to in paragraphs (a) to (c) within the period of 8 weeks beginning with the date on which the application was received by the authority,”.

(b) Omit subsection (2)

(c) In subsection (3) for “served within such time and in such manner as may be prescribed by a development order,” substitute –

.....“in writing addressed to the Secretary of State, specifying the grounds on which the appeal is made; and such notice shall be served –

(a) in respect of a matter mentioned in any of paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (1), within the period of 28 days from the receipt of notification of the authority's decision or direction or within such longer period as the Secretary of State may allow;

(b) in respect of such a failure as is mentioned in paragraph (d) of that subsection, at any time after the expiration of the period mentioned in that paragraph, but if the authority have informed the applicant that the application has been refused, or granted subject to conditions, before an appeal has been made, an appeal may only be made against that refusal or grant."

(d) For subsection (4), substitute –  
.....(d).“(4) The appellant shall serve on the authority a copy of the notice mentioned in subsection (3).”.

(e) For subsection (5), substitute –  
.....(5) For the purposes of the application of section 79(1), in relation to an appeal made under subsection (1)(d), it shall be assumed that the authority decided to refuse the application in question.”.

Section 79  
(determination  
of appeals)

(a) In subsections (1) and (2), substitute “the authority” for “the local planning authority”.

(b) Omit subsection (3).

(c) In subsection (4), substitute –

....(i) “section 70(1),(1A) and (1B)” for “sections 70, 72(1) and (5), 73 and 73A and Part I of Schedule 5”;

....(ii) “consent under a tree preservation order” for “planning permission”; and

....(iii) “the authority.” For “the local planning authority and a development order may apply, with or without modifications, to such an appeal any requirements imposed by a development order by virtue of section 65 or 71.”.

(d) Omit subsections (6) and (6A).

(e) In subsection (7), omit the words after “section 78”.

**PART II**

**PART PROVISIONS OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY  
PLANNING ACT 1990  
AS ADAPTED AND MODIFIED BY PART 1**

The following provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as adapted and modified by Part I of this Schedule, apply in relation to consents, and applications for consent, under this Order.

Section 69

(1) Every local planning authority shall keep a register containing information with respect to matters relevant to tree preservation orders made by the authority.

(2) The register shall contain, as regards each such order –

- (a) details of every application under the order and of the authority's decision (if any) in relation to each such application, and
- (b) a statement as to the subject-matter of every appeal under the order and of the date and nature of the Secretary of State's determination of it.

.....

(5) Every register kept under this section shall be available for inspection by the public at all reasonable hours.

Section 70

(1) Subject to subsections (1A) and (1B), where an application is made to the authority for consent under a tree preservation order –

- (a) they may grant consent under the order, either unconditionally or subject to such conditions as they think fit (including conditions limiting the duration of the consent or requiring the replacement of trees); or
- (b) they may refuse consent under the order.

(1A) Where an application relates to an area of woodland, the authority shall grant consent so far as accords with the practice of good forestry, unless they are satisfied that the granting of consent would fail to secure the maintenance of the special character of the woodland or the woodland character of the area.

(1B) Where the authority grant consent for the felling of trees in a woodland area they shall not impose conditions requiring replacement where such felling is carried out in the course of forestry operations (but may give directions for securing replanting).

.....

Section 75

Any grant of consent under a tree preservation order shall (except in so far as the consent otherwise provides) enure for the benefit of the land to which the order relates and of all persons for the time being interested in it.

.....

Section 78

(1) Where the authority –

- (a) refuse an application for consent under a tree preservation order or grant it subject to conditions;
- (b) refuse an application for any consent, agreement or approval of that authority required by a condition imposed on a grant of consent under such an order or grant it subject to conditions;
- (c) give a direction under a tree preservation order, or refuse an application for any consent, agreement or approval of that authority required by such a direction; or
- (d) fail to determine any such application as is referred to in paragraphs (a) to (c) within the period of 8 weeks beginning with the date on which the application was received by the authority,

the applicant may by notice appeal to the Secretary of State.

.....

(3) Any appeal under this section shall be made by notice in writing to the Secretary of State, specifying the grounds on which the appeal is made; and such notice shall be served –

- (a) in respect of a matter mentioned in any of paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (1), within the period of 28 days from the receipt of notification of the authority's decision or direction or within such longer period as the Secretary of State may allow;
- (b) in respect of such a failure as is mentioned in paragraph (d) of that subsection, at any time after the expiration of the period mentioned in that paragraph, but if the authority have informed the applicant that the application has been refused, or granted subject to conditions, before an appeal has been made, an appeal may only be made against that refusal or grant.

(4) the appellant shall serve on the authority a copy of the notice mentioned in subsection (3).

(5) For the purposes of the application of section 79(1), in relation to an appeal made under subsection (1)(d), it shall be assumed that the authority decided to refuse the application in question.

.....

Section 79

(1) On an appeal under section 78 the Secretary of State may –

- (a) allow or dismiss the appeal, or
- (b) reverse or vary any part of the decision of the authority (whether the appeal relates to that part of it or not),

and may deal with the application as if it had been made to him in the first instance.

(2) Before determining an appeal under section 78 the Secretary of State shall, if either the appellant or the authority so wish, give each of them an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by the Secretary of State for the purpose.

.....

(4) Subject to subsection (2), the provisions of section 70(1, (1A) and (1B) shall apply, with any necessary modifications, in relation to an appeal to the Secretary of State under section 78 as they apply in relation to an application for consent under a tree preservation order which falls to be determined by the authority.

(5) The decision of the Secretary of State on such an appeal shall be final.

.....

(7) Schedule 6 applies to appeals under section 78.

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NORWICH  
City Council

**IMPORTANT – THIS COMMUNICATION MAY AFFECT YOUR PROPERTY**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (TREES) REGULATIONS 1999**

**TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 2008  
THE CITY COUNCIL OF NORWICH NUMBER 428  
ADDRESS: Nos. 53 & 57 The Avenues, Norwich, NR2 3QR.**

**THIS IS A FORMAL NOTICE** to let you know that on **1<sup>st</sup> December 2008**, the Council made the above Tree Preservation Order.

A copy of the Order is enclosed. In simple terms, it prohibits anyone from cutting down, topping or lopping any of the trees described in the First Schedule and shown on the map without the Council's consent.

Some explanatory guidance on tree preservation orders is given in the enclosed leaflet, **Protected Trees: A Guide to Tree Preservation Orders**, produced by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

The Council has made the Order *to ensure the continuing preservation of two mature Beech trees that contribute to the benefit of local amenity within the local street-scene.*

[The Order took effect, on a provisional basis, on **1<sup>st</sup> December 2008**. It will continue in force on this basis for a further 6 months or until the Order is confirmed by the Council, whichever occurs first.]

The Council will consider whether the Order should be confirmed, that is to say, whether it should take effect formally. Before this decision is made, the people affected by the Order have a right to make objections or other representations about any of the trees, groups of trees or woodlands covered by the Order.

If you would like to make any objections or other comments, please make sure we receive them in writing by **31<sup>st</sup> December 2008**. Your comments must comply with Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999, a copy of which is provided overleaf. Send your comments to the **Tree Protection Officer, Norwich City Council, City Hall, St Peter's Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH**. All valid objections or representations are carefully considered before a decision on whether to confirm the Order is made.

The Council will write to you again when that decision has been made. In the meantime, if you would like any further information or have any questions about this letter, please contact **Michael Volp, Tree Protection Officer, Norwich City Council, St Peter's Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH (Tel: 01603 212546)**.

DATED this 1st day of December 2008.

Signed

Tree Protection Officer  
On behalf of Norwich City Council, City Hall, Norwich, NR2 1NH



**COPY OF REGULATION 4 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (TREES) REGULATIONS 1999**

Objections and representations

4(1) Subject to paragraph (2), objections and representations :

(a) shall be made in writing and :

- (i) delivered to the authority not later than the date specified by them under regulation 3(2)(c); or
  - (ii) sent to the authority in a properly addressed and pre-paid letter posted at such time that, in the ordinary course of post, it would be delivered to them not later than that date;
- (b) shall specify the particular trees, groups of trees or woodlands (as the case may be) in respect of which the objections or representations are made; and
- (c) in the case of an objection, shall state the reasons for the objection.

4(2) The authority may treat as duly made objections and representations which do not comply with the requirements of paragraph (1) if, in the particular case, they are satisfied that compliance with those requirements could not reasonably have been expected.

51 The Avenues  
Norwich  
Norfolk  
NR2 3QR

16<sup>th</sup> December 2008

Your reference TPO 428

Michael Volp  
Tree Protection Officer  
Planning & Regeneration  
Norwich City Council  
City Hall  
Norwich NR2 1NH



Dear Mr. Volp

Tree Preservation Order no. 428

We are writing to formally object to the tree preservation order detailed in your letter of 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008, in relation to beech trees in the front gardens of numbers 53 and 57 The Avenues, Norwich.

The reasons for our objections are detailed in the accompanying sheet, to which I also attach photographs.

We are the householders at number 51 The Avenues, and our house is next door to one of the properties concerned. We have a rightful interest in the proper and regular maintenance of the tree, in order to mitigate a number of problems which it poses to some degree at present, and will do to an increasing extent if left to grow unchecked.

I am writing to formally object to the designation of the copper beech tree in the front garden of number 53 The Avenues as having protected status.

I and my husband are the householders of the adjoining property, number 51. We have lived there since 1975, a total of 33 years. We appreciate that it is a fine specimen of a tree, although we do think it is **not** an appropriate one for a front garden, and is out of scale and proportion to what one might reasonably expect in a neighbour's front garden. I suspect it pre-dates the building of the houses on The Avenues in the 1930's – and in essence was left there by the original builders. Naturally the tree has grown throughout the thirty plus years we have lived in the adjoining house, and that growth is at the crux of the issue of protection, with the ensuing ban on any 'topping and lopping'.

If the structure at issue were a building, which it was suggested should be listed, then the structure at the time it was built would be the same as it would be today, in ten years' time, or indeed in twenty or thirty years' time. However with a tree it will year by year increase in size, and thereby pose an ever growing problem in the following ways, which form the basis of my objection:

- The tree, which is south-west of our house, blocks sunlight from our garden, and from the rooms at the front of our house both on the ground floor and the first floor. As the years go by this will become an increasing problem. The problem is of course worse in the summer, when the tree is in full leaf, which is precisely the time of the year when we should be able to expect to benefit from sunlight in our garden. If the tree can be pruned the status-quo can be maintained as far as our access to sunlight is concerned.
- Our telephone wire from the distributor pole in the road goes directly through the branches of the tree (see attached photo). A branch is currently bearing down on our telephone wire, and when the tree is in full leaf, and particularly when wet (or with snow), the branches weigh down to an even greater extent. In the past this has been corrected by careful lopping, and we need this to be done both now, and in the future when it becomes necessary again.
- As the tree increases in size there are each year more leaves to come down in the autumn. Given the prevailing, westerly, winds in autumn I estimate that 80-90% of the leaves fall into our garden. This has implications for our gutter, and the drain covers. My husband is a pensioner, and I shall be next year, and we find it increasing difficult to sweep up the leaves which arrive in our garden. We feel it to be unjust that the volume of leaves should increase year on year, with no regard to the impact on us.
- A significant number of branches overhang our drive, on which we park our car. We are fearful that if the tree is never lopped that in time branches will fall on our driveway and damage our property, car or potentially people. We would wish for overhanging branches to be lopped in accordance with advice given by a tree surgeon.
- We should also like to point out that branches overhang the pavement in The Avenues, and that this pavement is used continually by school children and their families accessing four schools in the area; Recreation Road Infant School, Avenue Junior School, St. Thomas More Junior School and Parkside School. It must surely be imperative to ascertain the health of the tree and to keep those overhanging branches cut back sufficiently to minimise any risk to passers-by, particularly following stormy and windy weather.

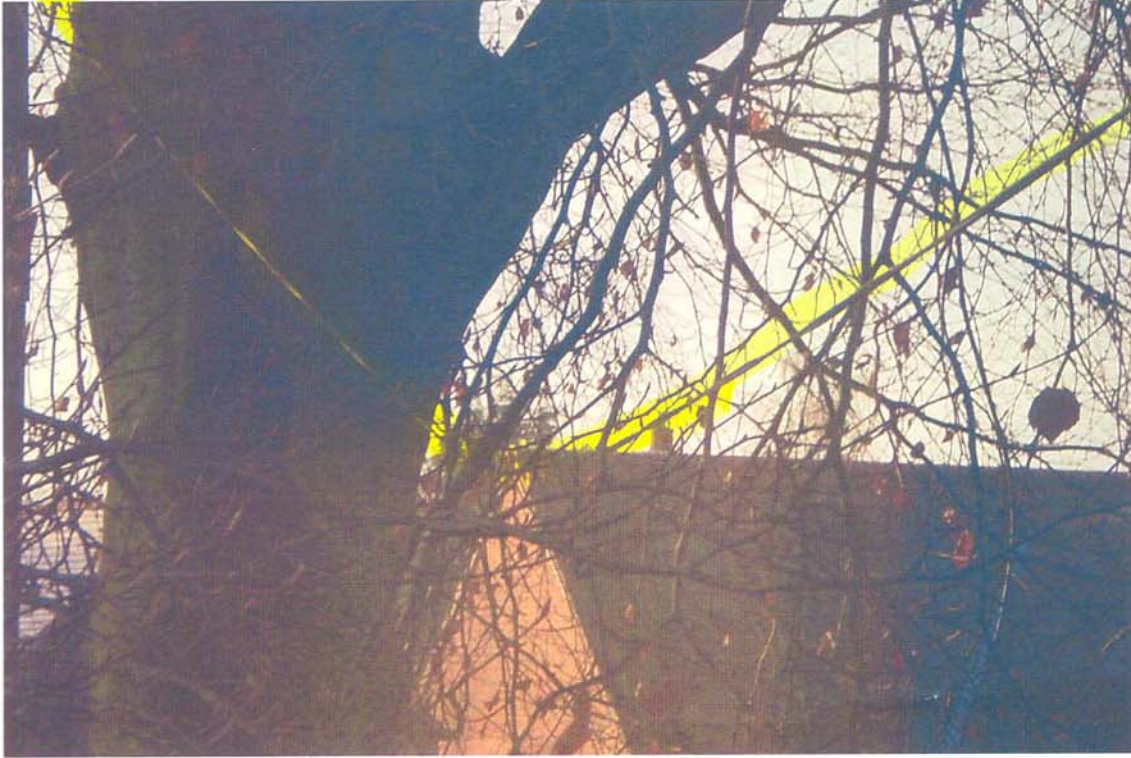
To summarize, we object to the designation of the tree in question as 'protected' and request that the tree instead can be 'topped and lopped' appropriately, according to the wishes and discretion of the occupants of the house (and not the Council). Our objections are on the grounds of:

- Blocking of sunlight to our garden and front rooms of our house
- Problems with the telephone wire to our house
- Increasing risk of branches falling on our drive/car
- Potential danger from overhanging branches to pedestrians, especially school-children
- Ever increasing nuisance from leaves if the tree is left to grow unchecked

To be logically consistent I also object to the designation of the tree at number 57 as 'protected'. Whilst this tree does not impact on our own house or garden in any way, I uphold the right of the owners of that house to have a right to appropriately 'lop and top' that tree at their own discretion, and for the right of their neighbours, upon whom it might impact, to state their views.

Zoom view of telephone  
wire for my house (no 51)  
weighed down by branches  
of tree

(much  
worse  
in  
summer)



View of tree in garden of no. 53  
from bedroom window of my house (no 51.)  
Telephone wire highlighted.



View of my house (no 51)  
with some of the overhanging  
branches, & an idea of  
height/scale of trees &  
where our car is parked.



Boundary gatepost