

PLANNING COMMITTEE - 13 NOVEMBER 2002

Report of the Chief Planning Officer

COUNTRYSIDE ITEM

OBJECTION TO TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH (TAUNTON NO.30) TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 2002 AT 108 CHURCHILL WAY, TAUNTON TD 930. GRID REF: ST 1379 2058.

The owner of 108 Churchill Way has been under continued pressure from a neighbour to fell a cherry tree in the front garden. The owner of the tree was concerned that the neighbour at 106 Churchill Way would remove branches that overhang their garden and thus disfigure the tree. By request the Tree Preservation Order was served.

A letter of representation has been received from the owner of 106 Churchill Way who objects to the Order on the following grounds:-

1. The tree is a poor specimen.
2. Bark is coming away from branches, which exposes heartwood.
3. Extensive rot is present in some branches.
4. The tree is covered in aphids in spring and early summer, which causes a health hazard.
5. There are other trees locally that are more worthy of preservation.

In response, the Officer's comments are the tree's position makes it easy to see from both the pedestrian access at the front of the terraced houses and from a private access road that is directly adjacent to the tree. The tree is infected with a bacterial canker that is damaging areas of bark; this has allowed isolated areas of decay to develop. The owners of the tree have invested in regular tree surgery from a reputable local contractor who has assured them that the tree is in a safe condition. Aphids that exude tree sap are a common problem. The sap can stick to adjacent buildings and windows but does not cause a health hazard. The sap can be washed away with relative ease and should not warrant the removal of this or any other tree. There are other significant specimen trees locally but there is no perceived threat and therefore no reason to serve an Order.

RECOMMENDATION

The Tree Preservation Order be confirmed.

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