

## **Planning Committee – 5 September, 2007**

### **Report of the Development Manager**

#### **Countryside Item**

#### **Objection to Taunton Deane Borough (Taunton No. 3) Tree Preservation Order 2007, Trinity Court, Haywood Road, Taunton - TD1034, T1 Norway Maple, T2 Purple Norway Maple, G1- 11 Poplars and 2 Holm Oaks**

The Tree Preservation Order was served in response to a proposal by Knightstone to fell one of the Norway Maples. The owner of the trees is the Knightstone Housing Association, Blackbrook Business Park, Taunton.

An objection to the above Tree Preservation Order has been received and the reasons for the objection are summarised below:-

- (a) The trees block out light.
- (b) The debris from the trees, such as leaves and seeds, causes a nuisance and blocks drains.
- (c) The height of the trees and the fact that they sway in the wind distresses the children.
- (d) The trees are affecting the health of the family.

#### **Officer's Comments**

The trees are in good health and contribute to the 'leafy' character of this part of Taunton. They are visible to the general public and, in particular the poplars, can be seen from some distance away.

Further to the above objection and concerns raised by Knightstone Housing Association regarding loss of light to their flats, a more considered assessment of the trees has now been made.

Group 1 of the Order comprises a staggered row of 11 Poplar trees and 2 Holm Oaks. Whilst the Poplars do have amenity value, it is agreed that they are not the most suitable trees to be planted in such close proximity to dwellings due to their height, rate of growth and potential to cause more damage to structures than other species. Their phased removal and replacement with more desirable species over the next few years should therefore be considered. Certain trees currently at each end of Group 1 should therefore be omitted from the Order.

Two Cherry trees have been identified within Group 1. These should be included in the Order.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Tree Preservation Order be modified to omit 5 Poplar trees from Group 1, 4 from the southern end of the group and one from the northern end. The Order should be confirmed to include T1, T2 and G1 comprising 6 Poplar trees, 2 Holm Oaks and 2 Cherry trees. The trees omitted from the Order should be identified on site.

## **Notes**

Before removing the Poplar trees, Knightstone should seek professional advice regarding the possibility of ground heave and its effect on adjacent properties, particularly 22 Haywood Road.

**In preparing this report the Planning Officer has considered fully the implications and requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998.**

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