

## DECISION

### Report to planning committee

**COMMITTEE:** Planning Committee

**TITLE:** Town & Country Planning Act 1990  
Town & Country Planning (Trees)  
Regulations 1999  
Tree Preservation Order No.151 (2013)  
Tree Preservation Order No 151 (2013)  
Tree at the Vicarage, Hawkstone Close

**SUBMITTED BY:** Head of Operations

#### **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To advise members of the Planning Committee that the above order was made using delegated powers on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013, and to seek approval for the Order to be confirmed as made.

#### **2 Background**

- 2.1 In October 2013 your officers received a letter from a local resident requesting that a single Oak tree at the front of the former vicarage on Hawkstone Close be protected by a Tree Preservation Order. The land on which the tree stands had recently been advertised for sale, and the resident expressed a concern that the new owners of the vicarage and may be intending to fell the tree.
- 2.2 Your officers inspected the tree and found it worthy of an Order. An Interim Tree Preservation Order was made on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013 in order to safeguard the long-term visual amenity that the tree provides, following concern for its future through a threat of felling.
- 2.3 The Oak tree is clearly visible from Hawkstone Close, Freehold Street and Occupation Street, and forms a part of the treescape of the wider Lyme Valley.
- 2.4 The Oak tree makes an important present and future contribution to the area and the loss of this tree would have a detrimental effect on the visual amenity, not only of the site but also the locality.
- 2.5 The tree is of a sufficient quality to be retained.
- 2.6 Other visually significant trees within this property are already protected under TPO 17 (1972).

- 2.6 Following the publicity process for this Tree Preservation Orders, one representation letter was received.
- 2.7 The letter provides no indication of support or objection to the TPO but requests some information concerning the following matters:
- Responsibility for maintaining TPO'd trees.
  - Concerns about branches causing a danger to highways.
  - Concern about overhanging branches damaging neighbours cars.
  - Tree roots blocking drains.
  - Japanese Knotweed.
- 2.8 A response was sent on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013 providing advice and information on the matters raised.
- 2.9 A reply was received from the same resident stating that she now understands the procedure for dealing with issues in connection with trees and would request that her letters are kept on file.
- 2.10 The representation does not make any objection to the TPO.
- 3.11 Your officers are of the opinion that in order to protect the long-term well being of the tree, it should be protected by a confirmed Tree Preservation Order.

### **Recommendation**

That Tree Preservation Order No 151 (2013) for the Oak tree identified as T1, at the Vicarage, Hawkstone Close Newcastle Road, Staffordshire be confirmed as made and that the owners of the trees are informed accordingly.

.