

DECISION

**Report to planning committee**

**COMMITTEE:** Planning Committee

**TITLE:** Town & Country Planning Act 2012  
Town & Country Planning (Trees)  
Regulations 1999  
Tree Preservation Order No.160 (2014)  
Land at 2 High Street, Wolstanton.

**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 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014, and to seek approval for the Order to be confirmed as made.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 The Order protects a single beech tree within the front garden of 2 The High Street Wolstanton. ST5 0HB.
- 2.2 The Order was made to safeguard the longer term visual amenity that the tree provides arising from an enquiry to the Borough Council on its status in connection with the sale of the property.

**3 Issues**

- 3.1 The beech tree stands on the front boundary of the property adjacent to the High Street. It is clearly visible from the High Street which is a main arterial route and entrance to Wolstanton, and also from Dorrington Grove. There are several single mature specimen trees along this section of the High Street which are important to the character of the area and to which the beech tree plays an important role. It is a mature tree and a prominent feature and provides an important contribution to the area. The loss of the tree would have a detrimental affect on the visual amenity, not only of the site but also of the locality.
- 3.2 A Tree Status Enquiry (number 14/00120/TENQ) was submitted to the Borough Council in September 2014 regarding the tree. This was in relation to the sale of the property giving rise to concern that the tree could be felled to remove it as an obstacle to the purchase or development of the site.
- 3.3 Your officers inspected the beech tree and carried out a TPO assessment, and found it worthy of an Order. It is considered to be in good health, visually significant and an amenity to

the locality, with the prospect of continuing to provide this for many years. The Order was made and served on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 in order to protect the long term well-being of the tree. No representations were received.

- 3.4 Your officers are of the opinion that making the Tree Preservation Order will ensure protection of the tree and secure its longer-term visual amenity. Your officers are of the opinion that the tree, is generally healthy at present and is of sufficient amenity value to merit the making of a Tree Preservation Order. It is considered to be an appropriate species for the locality and to provide public amenity value due to its form and visibility from adjacent public locations. The making of the Order will not prevent the owner from carrying out good management of the tree, it will give the Council the opportunity to control the works and prevent unnecessary felling or lopping. The owner will be able to apply for permission to carry out maintenance work to the tree and if in the future the tree does deteriorate in condition the owner will be able to apply for permission to carry out work which is necessary to safely manage the tree.

#### **4 Recommendation**

- 4.1 That Tree Preservation Order No 160 (2014) Land at 2 High Street Wolstanton, be confirmed as made and that the owners of the tree be informed accordingly.