

Confirmation of Tree Preservation Order

**LAND AT ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC COLLEGE, ASHFIELDS NEW ROAD,
NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME**

Tree Preservation Order No. 208 (2020)

Town & Country Planning Act 1990

Town & Country Planning (Tree Protection) (England) Regulations 2012

The Order protects four trees situated close to the school boundary with Ashfields New Road. The Order was made to safeguard the longer term visual amenity that the trees provide after a tree status enquiry was received which gave rise to concern that trees might be felled.

The Order was made using delegated powers on 12th February 2020. Approval is sought for the Order to be confirmed as made.

The 6 month period for this Order expires on 12 August 2020

RECOMMENDATION

That Tree Preservation Order No 208 (2020), Land at St John Fisher Catholic College, Ashfields New Road, Newcastle under Lyme be confirmed as made and that the owners of the site be informed accordingly.

Reasons for Recommendation

Your officers are of the opinion that the longer-term visual amenity of the trees is best secured by the making of a Tree Preservation Order. Your officers are of the opinion that the trees are generally healthy at present and are of sufficient amenity value to merit the making of a Tree Preservation Order. They are considered to be appropriate species for the locality and provide public amenity value due to their form and visibility from public locations. The making of the Order will not prevent the owner from carrying out good management of the trees, and it will give the Council the opportunity to control the works and prevent unnecessary cutting down, lopping, topping, uprooting, wilful damage or wilful destruction. The owner will be able to apply for permission to carry out maintenance work to the trees which is necessary to safely manage them.

Representations

No representations have been received.

Issues

The trees are situated immediately inside the fencing along the school frontage on Ashfields New Road. They are four individual deciduous trees. They are mature and clearly visible from Ashfields New Road, along which runs the Lyme Valley (North) Cycle Path, and the footpath access to Sainsburys supermarket.

The trees are a significant feature to the locality and provide an important contribution to the area. Their loss would have a detrimental effect on the visual amenity, not only of the site but also to the locality.

A tree status enquiry was received by the council from the school stating that the school would like to take down the London plane trees due to its closeness to the road and next to the pupil entrance. Your officer met with the Academy Manager of the school at the end of January and discussed alternatives to felling the tree. Concern remained that the tree could be felled.

Your officers inspected the London plane tree and all other trees on the schools frontage with Ashfields New Road and carried out a TPO assessment, and found four trees worthy of an Order. They are considered to be in reasonable 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 12th February 2020 in order to protect the long term well-being of the trees.

Date report prepared

20th April 2020