

REPORT TO:		Planning Committee	
DATE:		01 July 2024	
PORTFOLIO:		Leader of The Council	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Katy Morley, Arboricultural and Conservation Officer	
TITLE OF REPORT:		New Tree Preservation Order – 2024 No1 Water Street, Gt Harwood	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of notice:	2024

1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To recommend the protection of an Oak tree at Water Street, Gt Harwood, BB6 7QR through the use of a Tree Preservation Order.



Fig. 1- Oak tree on left of the picture (view from the west from Water Street).



Fig.2 – Photograph of the Oak taken from the south.

2. **Background**

- 2.1 In August 2019 a resident of Windsor Road rang to ask for a TPO on the Oak tree on the land at Water Street. The resident had previously emailed the council concerned that trees were being felled and that specifically the Oak tree should be retained as workmen had removed some branches. The Council's Arboricultural Officer, with the Council's Ecology Officer, visited the site on 20th August 2019 and found that the tree had been poorly pruned but not to a degree in which it was permanently damaged and that it would recover. A temporary TPO was put on the Oak tree but this has now expired
- 2.2 In July 2023 another resident rang to ask why the tree had not been protected and wanted a TPO to be put on the tree as they felt it was worthy of retention and any building works to be carried out on the land would put the tree at risk.
- 2.3 The Council's Arboricultural Officer, visited the site on 15th August 2023 and believed that on the basis of the contribution the tree made to the character, appearance and amenity of the area, that the tree would benefit from being protected.
- 2.4 When making Tree Preservation Orders it is necessary to assess the amenity value of the tree(s). As well as considering the condition and species of the tree(s) to be protected it is also necessary to consider factors such as the lifespan of the tree, relative public visibility, historic or habitat value, the form of the tree and whether it is rare or unusual. The assessment also considers whether the extent to which the tree is at risk of being felled or damaged. A scoring system is used to determine whether the tree merits protection.

2.5.1 An assessment of this tree has been undertaken and is included at Appendix 2. The scores indicate that the tree merits protection. Given the nature of the work that had been undertaken to the tree that resulted in the complaint, it is considered that there is a “foreseeable” threat to the tree.

3 Objections / representations

3.1 The land owners, nearby residents and councillors were notified by letter and email on 10th April 2024. No objections have been received.

4 Officers Observations

4.1 Comments on the tree are set out below.

Tree 1 Oak – One mature Oak tree in a good condition, opposite 110 Windsor Road Gt Harwood Very visible from a distance due to its size.

This tree has had poor pruning in the past probably due to the removal of branches low over the road but has now recovered enough to make a well balanced tree, it is visible to the public and it is important that when pruned again it is not pruned in the same way as before.

Therefore getting it protected will allow any further work to be carried out in a more harmonious way.

This tree is in a good condition at the time of inspection a good shape and form.

This tree is adjacent Windsor Road and present a high impact on the local environment and a high degree of public benefit in the future.

This tree makes a significant contribution to the character and appearance of the area.

5.0 Recommendation

To confirm the TPO and make it permanent on the grounds that:

- 1) The tree is in a good condition at this time, but if not protected it could be open to indiscriminate pruning or felling.
- 2) The tree has a notable presence in the townscape and can be seen from many roads and nearby footpaths. It adds value to the character of the area and has high amenity value.
- 3) The tree has significant wildlife potential.

- 4) The Council would have no objections to light selective pruning being carried out should this be necessary, but pruning must be controlled.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 That the tree be protected by a permanent Tree Preservation Order as recommended above.