

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT CONTROL) COMMITTEE
10th MARCH 2009

Review of Existing Tree Preservation Orders

OPEN	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
CONTACT OFFICER:	John Baggott – Extension 2515 John.Baggott@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the work being undertaken in respect of the review of existing Tree Preservation Orders and to advise as to potential implications.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the report be noted.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the meeting on 30 August 2007, Cabinet agreed to a proposal to utilise some of the Planning Delivery Grant award for 2007/08 to fund temporary additional Officer resource within the Division to support existing teams.
- 3.2 It has long been an aspiration of the Planning, Health and Environment Division to undertake a review of existing Tree Preservation Orders, in particular those somewhat dated Area Orders and, where necessary, revoke and/or make new Orders as applicable. To this effect, the need to provide temporary additional Officer resources was identified to provide support to the Arboricultural Officer.
- 3.3 A Tree Preservation Order Review Officer was appointed in October 2008 on a 1 year, part time, fixed term contract, fully funded by the Planning Delivery Grant.

4. KEY ISSUES

REVIEW OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

- 4.1 Since his appointment, the Tree Preservation Order Review Officer has been undertaking a review of a number of existing Area Tree Preservation Orders, including the entire Spennells Estate. Where an Area Order applies, all trees that were in existence at the date of the Order are protected. The review has identified only those trees that are considered to provide amenity value.
- 4.2 Having reviewed these Area Orders, it will prove necessary to revoke a number of Orders, with new Orders made where appropriate. However, once an order is revoked, it will be necessary to write to all interested parties where they can be identified and clearly, in the instance of the Spennells Estate, this will run to a significant number of property owners. Owners where there are trees that still need to be protected will also receive details of new proposed Orders.
- 4.3 Members are advised that proposed to start this process in the near future, with the potential for Members, as well as Officers, to be contacted by recipients of said letters.
- 4.4 Should Members wish to discuss particular Area Tree Preservation Orders, they should contact the Council's Arboricultural Officer directly. Alternatively, they may wish to contact the Development Control Manager.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The costs of delivery of the relevant correspondence will be met from existing budgets

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council is under a duty to keep Tree Preservation Orders under review.
- 6.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services will prepare the new Orders to ensure that the trees that still need protection are properly protected.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no risk management issues.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The review of existing Tree Preservation Orders is considered necessary and entirely appropriate, which is likely to result in the revocation of a number of older Tree Preservation Orders, with the possibility of new individual Tree Preservation Orders being made.

9. CONSULTEES

- 9.1 None.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.