

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

UPLANDS AREA PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE – 7 APRIL 2014

**NOTIFICATION TO POLLARD A HORSE CHESTNUT TREE IN THE BARTONS
CONSERVATION AREA – 2A/2B WOODWAY ROAD, MIDDLE BARTON, OX7
7BW (51.75/T96)**

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

(Contact: Nick Dalby, Tel: (01993) 861662)

(The decision on this matter will be a resolution)

1. PURPOSE

To consider a notification to pollard a Horse Chestnut tree growing in The Bartons Conservation Area at 2a/2b Woodway Road, Middle Barton, OX7 7BW.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the tree be made the subject of a tree preservation order.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. A Section 211 Notice has been received indicating the owner's intention to pollard a Horse Chestnut tree to approximately 4.00-5.00m in height at 2a/2b Woodway Road, Middle Barton, OX7 7BW . The site is within The Bartons Conservation Area.
- 3.2. On receipt of such a notice the Council has to consider whether or not the tree contributes to the character or appearance of the Conservation Area and, if so, it has the opportunity to make it the subject of a tree preservation order if it wishes to see it retained and to enable control of works to it in the future.
- 3.3. Whilst the regulations do not require reasons to be given to justify proposed works in these circumstances the owner's agent has stated that the reasons for wishing to pollard it are as follows:
 - It has poor formation of main union.
 - Recent storm damage caused damage to garages below.
 - Frequent longitudinal fractures appearing in limbs.

4. PLANNING ASSESSMENT

- 4.1. The tree is growing in a grass verge along Woodway Road, close to the junction with Enstone Road. It is very prominent in public views from Enstone Road and Woodway Road and is considered to be of high public amenity. There are few other large trees in the immediate vicinity and it is a local landmark feature.
- 4.2. The site is within The Bartons Conservation Area and it is considered that the tree makes a positive contribution to the character and appearance of it.
- 4.3. The proposal is to pollard it which would involve the removal of all branches to leave a pole approximately 4.00-5.00m high. It may or may not regenerate as this mature tree has not been subjected to a pollarding regime in the past. There would be a considerable loss of amenity caused by the works.

- 4.4. The reasons for wishing to carry out the pollarding are based around fears about safety. However, there is no strong evidence to indicate that such radical work is essential from a safety point of view.
- 4.5. Your officers consider that the reasons put forward to support the case to pollard the tree do not outweigh the contribution it makes to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.
- 4.6. Therefore, it is recommended that it is made the subject of a tree preservation order.

5. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS

The Council could decide not to make the tree the subject of a tree preservation order and allow it to be pollarded.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. REASONS

To protect and enhance the environment in accordance with the Council Plan.

Head of Planning and Sustainable Communities

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Date: 21 March 2014

Background Papers:

Section 211 Notice reference 51.75/T96.