

Memorandum



To: Martin Sutton
Copy to:
From: Andrea King
Date: 17/06/15
Subject: The Crescent Town Walls
Shrewsbury Tree Preservation
Order 2015

TPO ref: SC/00218/15

Tree Preservation Order for which representations have been received. Proposed for confirmation without modification.

The Crescent Town Walls Shrewsbury Tree Preservation Order 2015

- 1.0 This Tree Preservation Order (TPO) was created on 20/4/15. The reason for making the TPO was to preserve the visual amenity and character of the area by protecting trees that make a significant contribution to these attributes.
- 2.0 4 letters of representation has been received during the consultation period

Tree No.	Summary of Representation	Response
T1	PLEASE SEE ATTACHED REPORT	

NB. The above summary is intended to convey the material points of the representations, not reproduce them verbatim. Full texts are retained on the relevant TPO file for inspection.

3.0 It is recommended that The Crescent Town Walls Shrewsbury Tree Preservation Order 2015 be confirmed without modification:

Andrea King
Tree and Woodland Amenity Protection Officer

Background to The Crescent Town Walls TPO SC/00218/15

An application was received to remove 4 trees, 3 Silver Birch and 1 Copper Beech from Shrewsbury Conservation Area 15/01105/TCA. Reason submitted for felling the trees was as follows:

In general, the trees are an eyesore, not in an appropriate location, are causing a nuisance both in the mess they cause and also obstructing the views over the Severn valley. This application is strongly supported by our neighbours.

Three objections were received – extracts as follows:

objection 1 to the application

“The felling of the beech tree would be a disgrace, if the reason given is that it interferes with the parking of cars. The car park is currently being used by six contractors vehicles, so the presence of the beech tree still allows a perfectly adequate car parking space to meet the needs of its expected residents and visitors.”

Objection 2 (Town Council)

“Tree stock in this vicinity is important in adding to the character and form of the Shrewsbury Conservation Area and removal should be on the basis that there is significant justification. These trees are more a nuisance due to inadequate maintenance rather than posing any disadvantage to living space. Members feel there is more justification needed to removal than is currently presented.”

Objection 3

“The Beech tree is a large and dominant tree in the local area. The tree is in good health has high amenity value and is certainly appropriate for the location. The alleged safety aspects are not clear with protruding roots being detailed as a safety concern, but the photograph suggests that this is a natural surface root more pronounced because of surface ground compaction / erosion around the base from the passage of vehicles”

Decision

The decision was part refused and part approved as follows:

The 3 silver Birch are overly tall due to poor planting proximity and are obscured with extensive ivy. Dead branches are of concern to the adjacent property. No objection to felling of these trees. The Copper Beech (listed as species unknown) central to the parking area is healthy early mature tree with prominent public amenity to the surrounds. Consequently this tree has been made subject to a Tree Preservation Order and may not be felled.

Objection to the Order

The owner of the tree has made the following objections to the order:

- Difficulties with vehicles trying to manoeuvre around the car park to enable driving out front ways onto Crescent Lane
- Greater probabilities, when the car park has a numerous vehicles in it, of vehicles having to reverse out onto Crescent Lane blind – where vehicles drive along at speed
- The principal impact of the location of the tree forces a driver's vision to be concentrated on it - if a small child or pet is in the vicinity of the tree, they will not be seen – it's an accident waiting to happen and something that I am so uncomfortable with, I personally do not wish to wait for it to occur.
- The protruding roots (over a foot high) are at the least a tripping hazard and as observed are being damaged due to the lack of manoeuvrability
- You would not plant a tree in the middle of a car park

Response to objections:

The tree has been present since the 1970's and this part of the garden has been used historically for parking cars including when the property was a solicitors office.

There is sufficient space for the parking of numerous cars (4 and a JCB present when photo taken below) As the property has reverted back from an office to a residential property the requirement for parking would presumably be reduced.

Other possibilities exist to alleviate any issues.

*The raised roots are around the base of the tree due to compaction / erosion of the ground – these could be enclosed with a low fence or row of large stones

*The access could be made "one way" around the tree to avoid the need to reverse out

*Crescent Lane is a dead end access for the tennis courts and allotments only and traffic will be one way due to narrow width of the lane

Recommendation

I understand from historical records that the tree was planted in the 1970's to replace two protected Horse Chestnut trees from the same location which had become diseased. The tree has grown well and is an established and attractive specimen worthy of protection. There are viable solutions to the felling of the tree to respond to the concerns about parking and possible hazard.

Three mature Birch trees have been permitted to be removed from the garden due to their over maturity and poor height / diameter ratio and various other undersized trees and shrubs have been cleared. The tree is the only remaining one in a very long garden and whilst it's unfortunate it is in the parking area it has been in this position and thrived for 50 years .

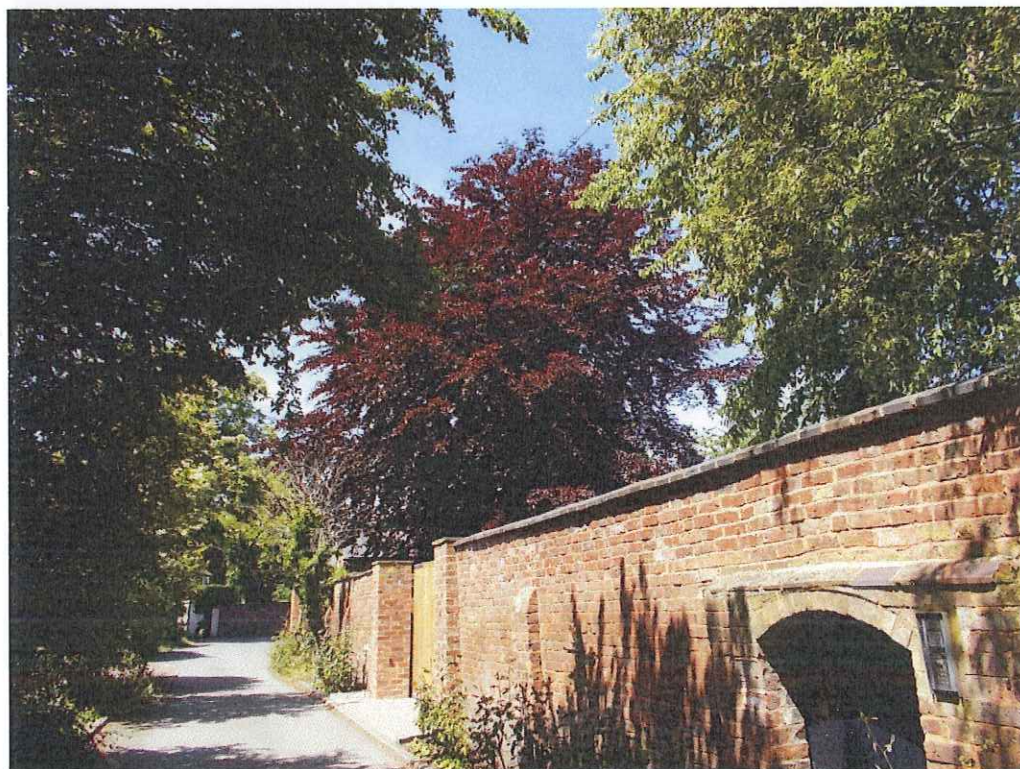
The Council would support an application for some light pruning and sympathetic crown raising of the tree.

Photos

Tree from corner of Crescent Lane looking east



Tree from corner of Crescent Lane looking west



Birch trees now removed



View of tree from tennis courts



Tree with parking around

