

1 CONFIRMATION OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER, GROUND AT 30C ALBANY ROAD, BROUGHTY FERRY (AN283-2007)

A request has been received for a deputation to address the Committee relative to the above item.

Reference is made to the meeting of the Planning and Transportation Committee of 12th November 2007 when consideration of the Agenda Note relating to the above proposal was deferred for further technical information to be provided by the Council's Forestry Officer. This Agenda Note fulfils that remit.

At the meeting of 12th November 2007, after a delegation by Mr and Mrs Lamb, members requested more information with regard to the health and safety of the proposed listed trees and in particular to the oak tree.

On 21st May 2007 at the request of Mr Lamb the Forestry Officer undertook a visual tree assessment of the mature oak tree and its fallen branch. The Forestry Officer noted that this tree was of such high amenity value that a TPO was warranted. He concluded that the point of failure on the upper side of the branch displayed an area of wounded bark with exposed underlying wood, which had created a zone of weakness. The combination of this weakness and the high winds (placing extra weight on the branch), is considered to have caused the branch failure.

The Forestry Officer recommended that the tree be crown thinned and shaped in accordance with BS 3990 1989. This action would result in the tree being retained and effectively maintained. In his view this would dramatically reduce the risk of further failure.

On 15th November 2007 the Forestry Officer re-inspected the tree and recorded that the tree had not been pruned. No further branch failure or defects were found.

The confirmation of a TPO does not prevent emergency works being undertaken.

In conclusion, the Forestry Officer does not accept the reasons or arguments for granting consent for the removal of the oak tree in the rear garden of 30C Albany Road for the above reasons. The removal of the tree, which is visible to surrounding properties and residents of West Ferry would be detrimental to the character of the locality.

Members are asked to authorise the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and the Director of Planning and Transportation to undertake the necessary procedures and confirm the above Tree Preservation Order.

Copies of the TPO are available in the Members Lounges and photographs will be displayed at Committee.