

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE

19th FEBRUARY 2007

**OBJECTIONS TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO.568
(6 ELLIOTT CLOSE, EXETER), 2006.**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The following report gives details of objections that have been received by the Council to Exeter City Council Tree Preservation Order No. 568 (6 Elliott Close, Exeter). The Committee is requested to determine whether to confirm, modify or refuse to confirm the Order. If an Order is confirmed (with or without modification) the protection that it provides becomes permanent but if it is not confirmed it ceases to have effect.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Tree Preservation Order No. 568 protects one Oak tree (T1) located within the front garden of 6 Elliott Close adjacent to the southwest boundary.
- 2.2 The order was made following pre application discussions regarding the possible construction of a single story extension to the south west of the existing property.
- 2.3 The Order was signed on 28th November 2006 and remains in force for a period of 6 months. If the Order is confirmed the protection becomes permanent; if the Order is not confirmed it ceases to have effect.

3. POINTS RAISED BY THE OBJECTORS

- 3.1 One letter of objection has been received from the owner of 6 Elliott Close.
- 3.2 The objection can be summarised as follows.
- The tree does not provide any amenity value and certainly not high amenity value.
 - The tree sheds leaves, acorns and other types of debris onto the road and pavement causing blocked drains and the pavement to become slippery.
 - Oak trees are probably the country's commonest tree and thus do not offer high amenity value.
 - There are four other trees of good size immediately across the road.
 - The tree is not particularly attractive and many lower branches have been removed.

4. OBSERVATIONS

- The tree is growing within the corner of the garden adjacent to the pavement it is considered that the tree makes a significant and valuable contribution to the street scene.
- Leaf and acorn fall are natural processes that occur as part of the trees physiology they are not reasons to exclude a tree from a Tree Preservation Order.
- The tree's inclusion within a Tree Preservation Order reflects its significant visual amenity value and not its rarity, notwithstanding the above large mature oak trees are not common within housing estates in the area.
- The presence of other trees within the area does not detract from the contribution this tree provides to the area.
- The tree has undergone pruning in the past particularly the removal of a number of low branches to allow for the free passage of vehicles beneath the crown of the tree, despite the pruning the tree still retains its natural shape

4.1 Northern Area Working Party on the 29th January 2007 supported confirmation of the Order.

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 It is recommended that the Order be confirmed without modification.

RICHARD SHORT
HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES

ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)
Background papers used in compiling this report:

1. TPO 568 (6 Elliott Close, Exeter), 2006.