

**PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

18th July 2012

APPEAL OUTCOME REPORT FOR INFORMATION

**APPEAL MADE AGAINST CONSENT TO CARRY OUT WORKS TO
PROTECTED TREES
TREE PRESERVATION ORDER DETAILS:
BOROUGH OF REDDITCH TREE PRESERVATION ORDER No.127**

Planning Application details: TPO/2011/055

**FELL OAK TREE GROWING IN THE FRONT GARDEN 3 OUTWOOD
CLOSE, OAKENSHAW**

3 OUTWOOD CLOSE, OAKENSHAW

WARD: HEADLESS CROSS AND OAKENSHAW

**DECISION: TREE PRESERVATION ORDER APPLICATION
DECISION MADE 25 OCTOBER 2011**

The author of this report is Sharron Williams, Planning Officer (DC), who can be contacted on extension 3372 (e-mail: sharron.williams@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk) for more information.

Discussion

Occupier of property wanted to fell an Oak tree growing in the front garden because of excessive shading, constant maintenance, and concern of damage to house and injury to individuals.

The Oak tree was inspected by the Councils Arboricultural Officer who confirmed that the tree was in good growth with no visible signs of disease or decay, and only low levels of minor deadwood. The Officer concluded that there was no current reason to consider the removal of the tree. The crown is well balanced, in good health and does not excessively overhang the property. The application was refused as it was considered that the tree was in a healthy and stable condition. The reasons given for wishing to fell the tree had been considered, however, in the absence of adequate justification, the felling of the tree was considered to be undesirable for reasons of public and visual amenity.

An appeal was made and the Inspector considered the following as the main issues:-

- Impact the proposal would have on the appearance and character of the locality.
- Whether the reasons given for felling the Oak tree are sufficient to justify its removal.

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The Inspector made the following conclusions:

- The Oak tree is a well shaped, large and healthy mature tree, providing high landscape value to the Outwood Close and Peterbrook Close residential part of Oakenshaw.
- The tree is located close to the western side, front, of No.3, and dominates the front of the house and the parking area.
- In addition the tree sheds debris all year and roosting birds and feeding aphids drop mess onto the ground (including front parking area) beneath.
- The size of the tree causes understandable worry to occupants of No.3.
- These issues are insufficient to justify removing such a fine tree, particularly as on-going tree maintenance such as limited pruning is available as a lesser alternative to felling.

Appeal Outcome

The planning appeal was DISMISSED.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the item of information be noted.