

26th August 2019

Laura Strong
Democratic Services Officer
Charnwood Borough Council
Southfield Road
Loughborough
LE 11 2TX

Dear Mrs Strong

Tree Preservation Order Proceedings
The Grange Gardens, Fowke Street Rothley

Thank you for your detailed letter concerning the above. I appreciate you informing the residents of the Grange of what has happened, and the subsequent consequences of having a TPO made on the whole Grange Gardens estate.

The Grange historically had formal gardens which were maintained with a diverse mixture of lawns, shrubbery, ponds, flower and vegetable beds. There is much evidence of the former glory of these grounds still in existence but this is sadly disappearing with the passage of time due to the lack of maintenance.

The Grange site was redeveloped some 11 years ago for residential use and the gardens areas to the rear of the properties have been retained within the site boundaries and are currently the responsibility of the Management Company Kingsdale to maintain.

The residential properties Nos. 31 and 33 adjacent to the Church boundary wall have a significant number of young and small saplings in the small strip of land between the buildings and the boundary wall included in Area A1 on the plan. This includes 3 young pine trees where the canopies have now grown to within touching distance of the buildings and one mostly dead Holly Tree.

I object to the TPO on the grounds that given the Grange Gardens are already within a Conservation Area, the existing rules for tree management on this site should be maintained. There is no evidence to my knowledge that any tree work is or has been undertaken outside of Conservation Area Notices to suggest that the imposition of the TPO is necessary. The manner of the 'blanket' TPO in that it simply defines the whole area by two blocks A1 and A2, is not appropriate to the grounds in their entirety. The imposition of the Area TPO without reference to specific trees of importance is not a workable solution for these gardens. There will always be a requirement for trees to be managed on this site due to tree canopy size, or roots in proximity to buildings, dead branches or dead trees and storm damaged trees etc. The residential properties Nos. 31 and 33 which are immediately adjacent to part of the Area A1 TPO should be permitted to have the same right to light as when the residences were first built. This is best achieved by regular maintenance under Conservation Area Notices, as opposed to the TPO which includes all trees regardless of age and size.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Simpkin

cc. Vanda Strutt at Kingsdale Ltd.

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23 August 2019

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Democratic Services Officer
Charnwood Borough Council
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Dear Mrs Strong

Tree Preservation Order Proceedings
The Grange Gardens, Fowke Street, Rothley

I object to the imposition of a blanket TPO on all the garden areas around the group of apartments fashioned out of the site of The Grange. It is a sledgehammer style of action designed to crack the proverbial small nut. The Grange and all its environs are part of an existing Conservation Area the terms of which require express Council permission to undertake any work on trees. Indeed, a very reasonable proposal for work under this measure was put up by the management company and its tree surgeon here, earlier in the year, but which for some reason sparked this TPO initiative.

A blanket TPO means that every new but unintended emergence of rogue trees such as ash and sycamore are caught in this web of protection. The birds and the wind are always busy sowing the seeds of these interlopers. No doubt under a TPO regime it will be harder to justify removal of such unwanted specimens.

The apartments at the southern end of this development (Nos 31-51) are quite close to the large tree stock which have an effect on the light we receive and the deposits that clog up the gutters. As was pointed out in the most recent application for permission, one adjacent holly tree is dead, and another sycamore growing out of a garden pond wall has crashed over. It should be a matter of clear and simple application under the Conservation Area rules for permission to be granted for the necessary work.

Before moving here in 2017 I lived for 30 years at No. 40 Fowke Street across the road, sharing my plot with four very mature forest trees at the back and two at the front. During that long period, and under the Conservation Area rules I made a steady number of successful applications for work on the trees, including removal of two with disease and liveability issues. Those rules in my opinion are perfectly good enough.

With all this TPO procedure going on, a whole season of tree work is going undone. I gaze out of my apartment at the Goat Willow with its numerous dead but still attached high branches which were caught up in a big storm.

Yours faithfully

Terry Sheppard