

Report to the Area Plans Sub-Committee East



Date of meeting: 28 January 2009

**Epping Forest
District Council**

**Subject: Confirmation of Tree Preservation Order EPF/32/08 – 55-69
Hemnall Street and 19 Theydon Place, Epping.**

Responsible Officer: Melinda Barham (01992 564120).

Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470).

Recommendation:

That Tree Preservation Order EPF/32/08 be confirmed subject to the deletion of T8 Cedar.

Report:

Background

1. This Tree Preservation Order is to protect trees still worthy of preservation that to date have been covered by an Order served and administered by Essex County Council in 1953. It also includes some additional trees considered worthy of protection that have been planting since 1953. This cedar tree falls into this category.

Objection

2. An objection to the Order has been received from the owner of 57 Hemnall Street in respect of the cedar (T8).

3. The grounds of the objection are as follows:

- (a) the tree is in an inappropriate position;
- (b) fallen needles block the guttering and then cause the gutter to rust;
- (c) the tree has caused damage to the property; and
- (d) root pruning has been undertaken which in the longer term could destabilise the tree.

Head of Planning Services Comments

4. The survey work for this Order was undertaken by external consultants who noted the tree as being a specimen worthy of protection. Unfortunately they did not alert us to the fact that the tree was only 2.6metres from the house, and approx 11m in height.

5. The tree is an Atlas Cedar, which can grow up to 40m at maturity and develop a crown spread capable of reaching up to 20metres. This would mean that the tree would need regular and disfiguring crown management to artificially restrict its natural development.

Conclusions

6. Whilst this is fine young specimen tree, it has already outgrown its position, and has the potential to cause damage to the fabric of this (Listed) property. The owner has recently planted two new trees in his front garden, and it is considered that they are suitable replacements for the anticipated loss of the cedar.

7. It is therefore recommended that the Order is confirmed, subject to the deletion of T8.