

Report to Area Plans South Sub-Committee South

Date of meeting: 10 August 2011



**Epping Forest
District Council**

**Subject: CONFIRMATION OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER EPF/07/11 –
St Johns C of E Primary School, and car par of St Johns Centenary Hall,
Buckhurst Hill**

**Officer contact for further information: Chris Neilan (01992 56 4117)
Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins (01992 56 4607)**

Recommendation: That Tree Preservation Order 07/11 is confirmed without modification

Background

1. St Johns School had approached ourselves for advice on trees within the School grounds prior to their submission of a Planning Application for a new classroom extension. In addition, a number of calls had been received from members of the public advising that the Church were drawing up plans for a new Church Hall and concerns has been raised regarding potential loss of trees. In order to assist the School and the Church, it was considered appropriate to identify the most important trees in making this Tree Preservation Order. In both respects the Order will assist in indicating where development could take place without impact or loss of these trees.

The Grounds of Objection

2. One objection has been received on behalf of the Parochial Church Council and the Church Wardens. The objection relates to Oak (T8), Holly (T9), Lime (T10), Pine (T11) and Holly (T12) ie all those trees within the church car park area. The reasons for the objection are ;

(a) It is not accepted that these trees are of any significant importance by virtue of their age, location or amenity benefit, bearing in mind the numbers of trees within the church grounds; and

(b) Plans have yet to be drawn up for the new community facilities

The Director of Planning and Economic Development comments as follows:

3. There are many trees on the consecrated land directly surrounding the Church. These have not been included in the Order due to the large number of graves within their vicinity they are unlikely to be felled to allow for a new Church Hall. The trees (T8 – T12), which have been protected, are in the open area of the church car park. The volume of enquiries received, prior to making this Order indicated that they have a high public amenity value. School children, churchgoers and visitors to the school, Church and church halls all experience these trees on a regular basis.

4. To date, no application for the demolition and replacement of the existing halls has been submitted. It would be premature, therefore, to exclude these trees

from the Order on those grounds. Should such an application be received, the importance of the trees could then be considered and re evaluated against the reasons given for the application.

Conclusion :

5. It is recommended that the Order is confirmed without modification.