

# **Report to Area Plans Sub-Committee East**



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

**Date of meeting: 6 June 2012**

**Subject: CONFIRMATION OF TREE PRESERVATION  
ORDER TPO/EPF/02/12**

**Officer contact for further information: Chris Neilan (Ext 4117)**

**Democratic Services: Adrian Hendry**

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## **Recommendation:**

**That TPO/EPF/02/12 be confirmed subject to the exclusion of T2, oak.**

## **Background**

1. Tree Preservation Order 02/12 is intended to protect 2 trees, a cedar and an oak at 20 Piercing Hill, Theydon Bois.
2. The order was in response to a specific request from Theydon Bois Parish Council to consider protecting the cedar. The then owner was unwell and it was expected that the property would be for sale. It was considered a landmark tree on this approach to the village and in their view it would in the public interest to secure its retention.
3. On inspection it was found that 2 trees were present, the large cedar and a medium sized oak. Both trees were, in the event, protected.

## **The Objection:**

4. An objection has been received from Mr Lawrence Barry, the son of the previous owner who has subsequently died. He objects solely to the inclusion of the oak in the order for the following reasons:
  - i) The cedar of Lebanon is a beautiful tree to be admired and the oak takes away from its beauty.
  - ii) The oak would be considered as a fair specimen of a forest oak, and would be appropriate if it were in the forest where it would blend in. However in the garden it is a liability, frequently shedding branches and twigs, and could be considered a health and safety issue.
5. Mr Barry points out that at his own house he already has approximately 20 oaks in an appropriate spacious environment and would be willing to plant 2 more to compensate for the one at Piercing Hill were it to be excluded from the order.

## **The Director of Planning & Economic Development comments as follows:**

6. It is accepted that the important tree in the garden is the cedar. The oak was added as a possible replacement, with the thinking that cedar trees are not

particularly long lived and that, in several decades time, the oak would form a ready made replacement.

7. However it is accepted that the Oak is a relatively one sided tree. It is not a particularly fine specimen, nor an ideal replacement. It is also accepted that the view of the cedar would be improved without the oak. In the event that the cedar tree had to be removed early, then it would be possible to use the order to have a replacement planted at that time.

**Conclusion:**

8. For the reasons given, it is recommended that the Order be confirmed but subject to the exclusion of T2, oak.