

DECISION DELEGATED TO DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Application No: H16-1064-18 **Applicant:** Lincolnshire County Council

Proposal: Works to Spalding TPO/016/13/1983

Location: Highway Verge: 61 West Elloe Avenue Spalding

Terminal Date: 14th December 2018

Planning Policies

Local Plan July 2016:

National Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework 2018

Representations:

	Object	Support	No Obj.	Comments
RESIDENTS	0	1	0	0

CASE OFFICER ASSESSMENT

Report regarding the lime tree identified as T16 of Spalding Tree Preservation Order No.13 1983.

The tree is 15m tall, with a 75cm stem diameter, is of moderate condition, and exhibits upper crown dieback according to the Lincolnshire County Council Arboricultural Officer.

The Arboricultural Officer also refers to the fact that the tree is within the sightlines of the junction between Ladywood Road and West Elloe Avenue and is causing the footway to be too narrow (80cm) and steeply sloping for mobility scooters. Reference is also made to the fact that there are other trees close by which would reduce the impact to amenity caused by its removal.

A resident in Ladywood Road of over forty years has put in a letter of support for the removal of the tree, using parallel concerns to those cited by the Arboricultural Officer.

Namely: 'Over the years with normal tree growth it has grown in girth such that it is a significant obstruction to traffic pulling out of Ladywood Road onto West Elloe Avenue'

'It also has crown die back in the upper branches and quite a few large branches have fallen from it in the last couple of years'.

'The increase in girth has also led to encroachment into the footpath and damage to the footpath

restricting the ability of walkers and mobility scooters to pass safely.'

'Due to significant growth at the base of the tree every spring/summer,' 'viewing for car drivers and passage for pedestrians has been further restricted'

The concerned resident has even cleared this spring /summer growth (epicormic growth) themselves to increase visibility.

Due consideration of this application has been given: To remove a preserved lime tree which is one of an avenue of limes which form a very notable and significant feature of the streetscape of Spalding,

With a normal car, if due care, patience and attention is given when exiting the junction at Ladywood Road, the lime tree concerned does not prevent safe exit. The application did not state particular problems with a type of vehicle.

If epicormic growth from the trunk of the tree is a Highways Safety problem (due to impedance of visibility) in the spring / summer months, the epicormic growth may be cut back without the need for a Tree Works Application being made, as long as methods adhere to those promoted in British Standard 3998 2010. This is a highways maintenance issue and not a reason to remove a preserved tree.

The dieback in the crown of the tree is very common in mature limes, and is likely to be exasperated because of the number of consecutive dry years. The regular removal of dead wood is a management issue. Dead wood may be removed without the need for a Tree Works Application being made. The works require to be carried out to British Standard 3998 2010 and due care taken of any Protected Species which may be present. Upper crown dieback of the level noted, is not a reason to remove a preserved tree of moderate condition overall.

There are alternative solutions with regard to remedying the narrow footway other than the removal of the tree. Such alternatives should use methods which minimise any potential for root damage to the preserved tree, the advice of a qualified arboricultural consultant is recommended.

It has been decided at this stage on the evidence provided, to refuse consent to this application, which proposes to fell the lime tree identified as T16 of Spalding Tree Preservation Order No. 13 1983. The reasons presented for felling are not insurmountable.