



Report to the Planning Committee

Location: Gedling Miners Memorial, Land Corner of Main Road,
Gedling, Nottinghamshire

Proposal: Protection of 2 no. Field Maple trees by a Tree Preservation
Order (TPO)

Case Officer: Lewis Widdowson

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. To request authorisation to confirm Tree Preservation Order (TPO) No. 000146 'Gedling Miners Memorial'.

2.0 Background

- 2.1. On the 29th September 2021 a request was received from a member of the public to protect 2 no. Field Maple trees which form part of the Gedling Miners Memorial on the Land at the Corner of Main Road, with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).
- 2.2. On the 29th September 2021 the Council's Arborist visited the site and carried out a TEMPO (Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders) Assessment to determine whether the trees were considered worthy of protection.
- 2.3. A TEMPO assesses trees against several criteria including Condition, Retention Span, Public Visibility, Other Factors and Expediency. For a TPO to be considered defensible the relevant trees should score 12 points or above in the TEMPO Assessment. If a tree/s score 16 or more it is considered that a TPO is definitely merited.
- 2.4. In this instance, the 2 no. Field Maple trees were considered and given a score of 15/25. As such their protection by way of a TPO was recommended.

3.0 Provisional TPO

- 3.1. The Gedling Constitution gives delegated authority to Officers, in conjunction with the Chair / Vice Chair of Planning Committee, for the making of new TPOs.
- 3.2. The Chair of Planning Committee was consulted on the 30th September 2021 and authorisation was given to proceed with the making of a Provisional TPO.
- 3.3. Gedling Borough Council made the Provisional TPO, reference 000146 'Gedling Miners Memorial', on the 1st October 2021.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1. In accordance with the Town and Country Planning Tree Regulations 2012, the Council served a copy of the notice on the owners and occupiers of the land directly affected by the TPO. Interested parties had until the 1st November 2021 to submit any representations to the Council which would then be taking into consideration when deciding whether to confirm the TPO.
- 4.2. In total 7 representations were received by the Council. 2 representations were submitted in support of the TPO whilst 5 objections were received. A summary of the comments received is provided below:
 - Original design for the siting of the Memorial included two Field Maple trees which would grow to 7-10 metres. This would be considered acceptable at the lower end of the scale when mature.
 - These are two sensitive, historic trees which strongly relate to the miners and former Colliery site.
 - The trees are resulting in damage to the nearby property 57 Main Road, Gedling specifically the boundary wall to the front by virtue of their size and proximity. The trees were not in keeping with what was agreed to be planted back in 2010 and there is significant support within the village for the removal of these trees.
 - There is potential for damage to nearby properties and the memorial itself. A smaller tree or shrub would be considered appropriate.
 - The trees planted do not match the species which were originally agreed and are considered inappropriate for the area as when fully matured they will be overpowering and overbearing for their position. Is in support of the removal of these trees and replacement with a more suitable species.

- Concerns regarding the size of the trees are unsuitable for the location they are situated in. The trees are causing damage to the adjacent boundary wall and driveways and should be replaced with more suitable slow growing trees or shrubs.

5.0 Consideration

- 5.1. The two trees which are the subject of this TPO were planted in agreement between local residents, Gedling Miners' Memorial Trust and Nottinghamshire County Council to commemorate local miners who sadly lost their lives at the Gedling Colliery and the miners who worked there.
- 5.2. It is apparent that there is some debate with regards to the number of trees and what species should have been planted however, I consider that this is largely immaterial when considering the merits of this provisional TPO. The TPO is made in relation to the trees which are in-situ at present and it is their value and impacts which must be considered when deciding whether to confirm this Order.
- 5.3. The main concern which seems to be raised in the letters of objection relate to the size and future growth of the two trees. Again there seems to be some discrepancy regarding this matter, however, following consulting with Gedling Borough Council's Arborist it is considered that this species of Field Maple - *Acer campestre* 'Streetwise' are smaller than traditional Maples and would be expected to reach a size of approximately 7m high and 3m wide after a period of 25 years. With this in mind I do not consider that the trees would have an unduly detrimental impact on the amenity of the nearby dwellings or their respective curtilages.
- 5.4. In addition to the above, consideration must be given to any potential damage the trees may be causing on nearby dwellings. It is stated that the trees are resulting in damage to the adjacent boundary wall and driveways, however, no evidence has been provided to suitably demonstrate this and having attended site it is noted that a large mature hedgerow sits atop the boundary wall which is considered more likely to be the cause of a lack of moisture in the soil than the two Field Maple trees which are the subject of this TPO.
- 5.5. Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that the confirmation of this TPO would not mean that any future works could not be undertaken rather an

application would need to be submitted for consideration by Gedling Borough Council.

- 5.6. Taking the above into consideration it is my opinion that these trees are of good amenity value and are important in relation to the setting of the Gedling Miners' Memorial.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1. Confirm Tree Preservation Order - 000146 'Gedling Miners Memorial' without modifications.