

**CITY OF LEEDS TREE PRESERVATION ORDER (No.17) 2015,
Land adjacent to 320 Pudsey Road LS13 4HX**

1. BACKGROUND

I was contacted by the Leeds City Council Conservation Officer and one of our Planning Officers with a view to protecting this woodland.

Concern was expressed as to current and future development aspirations in the area and the potential loss of trees.

The site was subsequently visited and it was evident that there was a highly prominent woodland block extending North from Pudsey Road.

A TPO was served on 20th November, 2015

2. OBJECTION

An objection to the TPO was subsequently submitted by DPA Planning Ltd.

The points raised in the objections can be summarised as follows:

1. The trees in question are not worthy of a TPO
2. Some trees have structural defects raising public safety issues and have no long term future

3. COMMENTS OF THE TREE OFFICER IN RELATION TO THE OBJECTION

1. This view, as expressed by the consultants employed to survey the trees, is a subjective one. Individually there are certain trees that would not qualify for legal protection. Collectively, however, these trees form a young woodland that has the potential to form an important amenity to the surrounding residences and public highway (Pudsey Rd). I consider its current collective condition to be fair to good.

The Leeds City Council senior nature conservation officer has also visited the site. He has noted the presence of ground flora and young regeneration typical of an establishing woodland.

2. The structural integrity of the trees is not a major consideration for this site. There is limited public access due to undergrowth and uneven terrain. There are no formal access points, only a few desire paths.

The issue of long term viability is not relevant. The highest percentage of trees in the woodland are pioneer specie trees. These trees have a shorter life span than other trees such as Oak, Ash or Beech. As the pioneer trees fall, increased light levels to the woodland floor are created allowing other tree regeneration through. The decomposing timber from the pioneer trees also

provides vital nutrients into the soil which again benefits the new regeneration trees as they establish. As mentioned in my previous response to the first objection, decaying/fallen trees are typical elements in a naturally evolving woodland.

As a group, these trees provide a prominent visual amenity to both Pudsey Road as well as the residential properties to the North on Harewood Way and Swinnow Lane. This woodland also provides a vital green corridor connecting green areas to the South and the North of the site.

4. CONCLUSION

The Order is warranted on the grounds of amenity and expediency and, therefore, the imposition of the Order is appropriate.

The Council would consider any sensible tree works application on its merits.

Any future development related tree issues can be considered through the Planning process, where trees will be one of many considerations

5.RECOMMENDATION

That the Order be confirmed as originally as served.