

Bev Robinson
Principal and Chief Executive

8th April 2021

Eckersley Property,
25A Winckley Square,
PRESTON PR1 3JJ.

Tree & Landscape Officer,
Fylde Borough Council,
Town Hall,
LYTHAM ST. ANNES
FY8 1LW.

Dear Sir

RE: Fylde Council Tree Preservation Order 2021/0001 Land at Church Road and Albany Road, Lytham St. Annes.

This letter makes a formal objection in part to the above provisional Tree Preservation Order based on the reasons as set out below.

A1 – this is a small, isolated block of planting which appears unmanaged. The pine is young to semi-mature and crowded. The rowan and hawthorn are spindly in growth form being outcompeted by the more dominant pine. The whole appears unmanaged.

Although this small, isolated block of planting may afford the occasional adjacent Ledbury Avenue thoroughfare user partial filtered screening of the now permanently closed Lytham Sixth Form College. In the wider landscape amenity context being set well back from Church Road/Albany Road, it is considered barely noticeable in any views.

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In terms of ecology, the block of planting is fragmented in managed amenity grassland and not connected in any meaningful way to other significant wildlife friendly habitats. In addition, as noted in the tree preservation order it is a monoculture of pine. As such, the understory is shaded and devoid of any floristic diversity. Further, the non-native invasive Japanese rose appears present to the edge of the block and it is noted that this species is listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

A2 - a small, isolated block of crowded planting. Some rough management has been undertaken in the form of hand pruning with arisings deposited around the edge, fly tipping is also evident within the plot. The pine and broad-leaved trees are young to semi-mature and competing for light, leading to poor form and character in many individuals.

Like A1, this small, isolated block of planting may afford the occasional adjacent Ledbury Avenue thoroughfare user partial filtered screening of the now permanently closed Lytham Sixth Form College and Andsell Medical Centre. In the wider landscape amenity context being set back from Church Road/Albany Road, although more visible than A1, it is considered that G1 (see below) dominates the view.

From an ecological perspective, the block of planting is in managed amenity grassland and not directly connected to other significant wildlife friendly habitats. In addition, as noted in the tree preservation order it is dominated by pine, as such and like A1, the understory is shaded and devoid of any floristic diversity. Japanese rose appears to be present to the edge of the block of A2.

G1 – a significant block of semi-mature to mature pine. The single oak and beech mentioned in the tree preservation order are being completely outcompeted and are unlikely to become trees of any significant merit. Historical thinning has been undertaken in the past, although some poor pruning techniques are evident on some individuals adjacent to the Ledbury Avenue thoroughfare.

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G1 fronts Church Road/Albany Road and runs along the edge of the Ledbury Avenue thoroughfare, as such it is a significant boundary feature and frames the site. In winter G1 is visible for a considerable distance to users approaching from either direction along Church Road/Albany Road. In summer, though still visible, its presence is likely somewhat diminished by deciduous trees and shrubs along Church Road/Albany Road that will contribute to the complete street scene.

G1 is immediately adjacent to G2 and there is also connectivity to the rear gardens of properties along Church Road and Lomond Avenue. As such, it may provide some cover or resource opportunity for urban animal species such as fox and bat or bird species. The understory of the pine is a monoculture of unmanaged grassland with low ecological value.

G2 – six semi-mature and one young oak make up G1, there also appears to be a self-set young sycamore. Most of the oak have a lop-sided crown development due to the poor techniques used in pruning branches along the boundary with Ledbury Avenue thoroughfare.

G2 is connected at the south-west end of G1 and along with G1 forms a boundary along Ledbury Avenue thoroughfare. In winter, G2 is barely discernible along the thoroughfare when approaching from Church Road, G1 dominates the view. G2 is likely to be more discernible during summer months when in leaf, both along Ledbury Avenue thoroughfare and to a filtered extent from Church Road/Albany Road.

As G2 is essentially connected to G1, it too may provide some cover or resource opportunity for urban animal species.

In summary, the amenity value of G1 is recognised as a significant boundary feature framing the site and is not challenged, although it is considered that some sympathetic selective pruning would benefit G1.

A1 and A2, on their own are considered to afford nominal amenity value. Moreover, many of the individuals that make up A1 and A2, are of poor form and character due to intra and inter specific competition, and either unmanaged in the case of A1, or managed poorly in the case of A2.

G2 is essentially an extension of G1, although poor pruning techniques along Ledbury Avenue thoroughfare have affected some individual development and form, subsequently reducing the overall amenity value of G2.

Cumulatively, the variable amenity value of all the trees is recognised. However, it is considered that the loss of A1, A2 and G2 in the event of any potential development of the site could be mitigated via a robust landscape scheme with appropriate management. Further, it is considered that any potential development would present an opportunity to enhance the frontage planting along Church Road/Albany Road as well as renewing the planting layout internally.

As such, it is requested that Fylde Borough Council reconsider Tree Preservation Order 2021/0001 and modify accordingly based on the information presented above. Blackpool and The Fylde College recognise the value of trees in the urban environment and would be happy to discuss the matter further.

Kind Regards

Steve Nunwick

On behalf of Blackpool and The Fylde College