

TPO.TVBC.1223

69-72 Riverside Gardens, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 8HN

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

Background Papers B –
Forty Four of support

From: --
Sent: 28 March 2021 22:24
To: Planning User
Subject: ref: TPO.TVBC.1223.
Attachments: 74.JPG

Sirs

It has come to my attention that an *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore) in Riverside Gardens has had an application for the tree to be felled and removed, since when a temporary TPO has been placed on the tree pending its removal or having a permanent TPO being placed on the tree, with various appeals and representations on both sides.

Considerations for the TVBC to take into account.

I'm a resident of years and a frequent visitor to my house of over years living in Middlebridge Street and whose garden backs onto Riverside Gardens.

The aforementioned tree is probably over 70 years old and was more than likely planted by Cyril Chapman when he had his nursery on the land now occupied by the Riverside Gardens development.

For someone or people now to disapprove of its existence should be irrelevant. The mature tree was there at the time of the developer getting planning to build his houses (nearest to the tree) in the late 1980's or early 1990's, if it was felt the tree was to cause a nuisance, surely that would have been the time to request for it to be felled, not 30 years later! Having looked at the tree closely I can see no cause as to why the tree should be felled, it's not touching the building, in fact the canopy of the tree must be a good 10 metres from the building. The only small cause for concern is that the tree root is causing some lift in the adjoining pavement, but it's a long way from causing a trip hazard. The tree is in a healthy condition and has stood up to the ravages of storms and high winds since the 1980's. Then we have to add in the benefit of what this tree brings to wildlife, which has to be immeasurable.

Riverside Gardens which was built in 1966 is a very bland development with little or no landscaping to enhance it, apart from the properties facing the river. It has no established trees on the development; this *Acer* is the last of the mature trees to remain. There have been 3 mature *Acers* felled since the beginning of the 1990's (photo attached), so to have the last one remaining felled because people don't like, surely is not a reason for it to be felled – it has to be preserved!

Regards





**ROMSEY & DISTRICT SOCIETY
Planning Committee**

Reg.Charity 269308

29th March 2021

Head of Planning and Building,
Test Valley Borough Council,
Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road,
Andover, Hampshire, SP10 3AJ

Copy to:

Dermot Cox
Arboricultural Manager
Planning & Building

Dear Sir,

TVBC.TPO.1223

Having been made aware that the tree in question has been made the subject of a temporary Tree Preservation Order (TPO), Romsey and District Society wishes to state its strong support for the preservation order becoming permanent. In a relatively high-density housing area this perfectly healthy and mature tree offers significant visual amenity value to the local community.

The Society believes that the subject tree **must** be preserved for its natural life span.

The tree in question is also the subject of a notice 20/03009/TREES to fell the T1 Sycamore Tree on the land between 69 to 72 Riverside Gardens and Public Pavement SO51 8HN. This notice identifies three issues in favour of removing the tree. None of them can be considered relevant to invalidating a TPO. They are:

- a. Damage to drains. There is no verification that the photographic evidence relates to a specific drain. If there is visible root growth within the drain it should be removed.
- b. Damage to the pavement. Current damage is minor but does not affect wheelchair users. There is room to alter the pavement layout such that its surface would be less at risk of damage.
- c. Potential damage to parked vehicles. The risk of falling limbs can be avoided by tree surgery. There is no evidence provided of any past vehicle damage related to this tree.

Please note that the above comments are entirely those of the Romsey and District Society Planning Committee and you may receive other comments from the Natural Environment Committee of RDS. Please record and consider the points of each RDS committee separately.

Yours faithfully

For the Planning Committee,
Romsey and District Society

I vehemently object to the proposed felling of the large sycamore tree situated between 69-72 Riverside Gardens.
It is the only tall tree left in the area and is a host to insect and bird life.

Recd
29/3/21.

I consider that this tree should have a permanent TPO.
It has benefits eg climate change mitigation, wildlife value, enhancement of street scene.

Reed
29/3/21

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 29 March 2021 17:19

To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>

Subject: Reference TPO.TVBC.1223.

Living in Riverside Gardens I appreciate that the Sycamore tree is contributing to combating climate change by aiding water conservation and storing carbon.

I also enjoy the beauty that it brings.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 29 March 2021 20:12

To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>

Subject: TPO.TVBC.1223. Sycamore Tree

Dear Sir/Madam,

Reference : TPO.TVBC. 1223. Sycamore Tree on the land between 69-72 Riverside Gardens, and public pavement SO51 8HN

With regard to the above reference, we would like to add our support to the Tree Preservation Order on this beautiful Sycamore Tree.

We support this TPO because Sycamore Trees, as a species, have a high tolerance to air pollution which is extremely important in this day and age when we are encouraged to plant more trees.

The tree is contributing to combatting climate change by water conservation and storage of carbon.

The tree contributes in its beauty to the surrounding area and adds colour and seasonal interest, as well as being a habitat for many birds, including a colony of starlings, plus many insects including bees which feed on the pollen/nectar (bees also need to be protected).

The pavement has only minor damage and can easily be used safely by pedestrians, wheelchairs and pushchairs.

We hope a permanent Tree Preservation Order will be swiftly placed on this important tree.

Yours faithfully

From: ...
Sent: 29 March 2021 20:18
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: Ref. TPO.TVBC.1223

Dear Sir/Madam

We find it very difficult to understand from the evidence supplied a reason to destroy a healthy tree that has been part of Riverside Gardens landscape for many years.

We should be looking after trees, not felling them unless there is a good reason.

There are many reasons to protect our greenery in this world,

Wildlife protection

Encouraging birdlife.

Aiding climate change

Attracting insects

These are a few facts, but as a forward looking council who appears to support the environment I would think that you know the value of this tree which is the only remaining one left in this part of Riverside Gardens.

Yours faithfully

From:Planning User
Sent:30 Mar 2021 03:23:51
To:
Subject:FW: Tree preservation
Attachments:

From:
Sent: 30 March 2021 15:18
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: Tree preservation

Reference,TPO.TVBC.1223.

I strongly back preservation of the Sycamore tree at 62-72 Riverside Gardens. Recently several trees along the river have been cut down . This tree is mature and enhances the area. It is vital for absorbing carbon . Bees use the flower pollen and birds nest in it . It is one of only two trees left after the more recent building in that area. Please help us preserve it . Sincerely .

From: [redacted]
Sent: 30 March 2021 16:49
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: TPO.TVBC.1223 Sycamore Tree at Riverside Gardens

I wish to support the placing of a permanent TPO on this tree.

This tree is a significant and rare amenity in this heavily developed area. Visually it is striking, indeed beautiful, and provides a pleasing contrast to the urban landscape

It's location alongside the public pavement means that it is very visible to and appreciated by many residents and contributes to the street scene and immediate surrounding area.

It links the trees in the Memorial Park to the trees at Broadlands providing a wild life corridor, with roosting and shelter for birds, pollen and nectar for bees and food for moths, attracting aphids and their predators.

Perhaps more importantly its high tolerance to air pollution offsets emissions from the ever increasing numbers of cars parking in the area. It contributes to helping reduce the impact of climate change by storing carbon, aiding water conservation and providing much needed shade.

The tree should be protected permanently as no specialist reports have been provided proving that it has caused damage to drains nor is there evidence of ill health in the tree or that it has caused damage to people, vehicles or buildings. I have never seen that it has shed large branches in the years I have lived here. People with scooters and buggies have no problems using the pavements.

We can ill afford to lose the contribution which this solitary and significant tree makes to our amenity and health.

From: Planning User
Sent: 30 Mar 2021 11:58:11
To:
Subject: FW: TPO.TVBC.1223
Attachments:

Comment on provisional TPO.

From:
Sent: 30 March 2021 10:52
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: TPO.TVBC.1223

To whom it may concern,

I am reliably informed that a permanent TPO on the Sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens now needs to be applied for.

Sycamore trees are an aid to combatting climate change, they have a great tolerance to air pollution, storing carbon and helping water conservation.

The tree is very visible to those of us who live in Riverside Gardens and also the surrounding area. There is seasonal interest in the tree as it provides food and shelter for the wildlife, shade in the summer and beauty softening the hard landscape of the houses, pathways and highway.

Its proximity to the pavement and road does not hinder footfall or passing vehicles. The tree should be protected because there are no reports of it causing damage to anyone or anything, no reports to suggest that it is in poor health. It was there before the properties surrounding it were built and I assume that its position was considered when planning for these dwellings and no viable reason to fell the tree was found.

I sincerely hope that the committee will find in favour of this magnificent and beautiful tree, to place a permanent TPO on it and protect it and the wildlife it supports.

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

From:

Sent: 30 March 2021 14:17

To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>

Subject: TPO.tvbc.1223 Sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens

Dear Sirs, I write once again to support the placing of a permanent TPO on this sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens. This tree, which has been there for at least 50 years to my knowledge, is the last one in a line of mature trees which has been felled because of the new builds in this area and, as such, it is very valuable to the local birds and insects and small mammals but also to the local inhabitants. It helps to stop climate change by absorbing large quantities of water - this is most necessary in this part of Romsey and by absorbing air pollution which has increased because of the high number of cars in Romsey but especially within the small environment of Riverside Gardens. It provides shade and shelter for birds and small animals. For human inhabitants it provides some relief in breaking up the outlook of the mass of buildings and tarmac and giving us something restful to look at. As far as I know the tree does not pose any threat to the people who live around it, true there is a very small crack in the pavement probably caused by a surface tree root but I am advised that this can be easily remedied. I myself have never seen any evidence of large branches being blown down, nor have I seen any evidence of the intrusion of tree roots into nearby drains and I would have thought that, when nearby properties were built, the builders and the water board would have taken all these things into consideration.

Finally I myself would very much miss this magnificent tree which I have seen every day since moving to Riverside Gardens more than 10 years ago. I would miss our little flock of starlings which has gradually increased over the years and which use the tree during the day along with the pigeons and the many smaller birds which feed on the insects on the tree which themselves rely on the nectar supplied by the tree - sycamore trees are a great blessing to our countryside and we are very lucky to have this splendid, mature specimen growing among us.

I do hope that you will take all my objections into consideration when you have your meeting.

with kind regards from

30th March 2021

Dear Sir

Reference : Planning application 20/03009/ Trees

Further to our letter to Mr Grogan at Test Valley Borough Council concerning the above planning application, we would like to confirm and emphasise, our objection to the felling of the tree in question. We understand that the temporary protection order for this tree will shortly run out and that the "group" asking for it's destruction have renewed their efforts to have this carried out.. In our view and for the reasons stated in our earlier letter, the TPO should now become a permanent order.

As we stated before, this tree fulfils many useful criteria and just to confirm and emphasise these we list them below.

- 1 It is seen by many of the local residents and offers a pleasing sight contrasting with the buildings surrounding it.
- 2 In our opinion, it has done very little damage to the pavement and certainly does not cause any problems regarding the use of this pavement.
- 3 The alleged damage to drains would seem in many ways due to the lack of proper and regular maintenance. The tree was in existence long before the buildings as it was a mature tree when we first lived here.
- 4 To object to the tree on the grounds that it's 'fallout' can damage parked cars is pretty trivial as this is a very seasonal problem and if it is a problem - PARK SOMEWHERE ELSE DURING THAT PERIOD! It's hardly a valid reason for the destruction of a beautiful tree which is one of the few left to us in this area.
- 5 The tree is a valuable asset with regard to the local wildlife, providing food, shelter and contributing to it's diversity. Surely something worth preserving ?
- 6 Trees are an essential part of our struggle to try to reverse the effects of an excess of carbon emissions into the atmosphere and the pollution of this beautiful planet that we call home and to lose yet another lovely tree in it's prime would surely be a crime.

we have seen the loss of a great number of mature trees in the name of "progress" in the plus years that we have lived in Middlebridge Street and feel that we must add our voices to those of people objecting to the destruction of this mature and beautiful tree. During the time that we have lived here, we have **never** seen this tree lose any significant branches, even in the storm of October 1987.

From: Planning User
Sent: 31 Mar 2021 11:15:49
To:
Subject: FW: Reference: TPO.TVBC.1223
Attachments:

From:
Sent: 31 March 2021 11:09
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: Reference: TPO.TVBC.1223

Reference: TPO.TVBC.1223
SYCAMORE TREE

To whom it may concern,
I am writing with regards to the TPO (tree preservation order) on the Sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens Romsey SO518HN, which is my home street.

The facts are the tree is home to lots of species. Different types of wildlife use the tree, I have seen this with my own eyes. Birds use it often regarding their nesting and lots of bees too. Bees are becoming a species we need to protect as are essential for our human life, this kind of tree provides pollen and nectar for those bees. A colony of starlings flitter in and out the tree as well as lots of other breeds we have around this area. I am aware the species of the Sycamore tree also attracts insects such as aphids, ladybirds and hoverflies as many around it often.

The Sycamore tree provides towards air pollution, storing carbon and helps battle the climate change by aiding water conservation which is very much needed in this area of living.

As far as living in the street goes it's beautiful to look at with the seasonal changes and seeing the very much wildlife that use it always around daily. To lose this tree would be devastating to animals, insects and humans well being.

Kind regards

From:
Sent: 31 March 2021 13:46
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: TPO.TVBC.1223

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of a TPO being placed on a sycamore tree, in Riverside Gardens - which is due to be cut down, without any obvious reasons.

These trees, as you know can live up to 600 years. Climate change has an impact on all of us and future generations. I feel this would be a crime against humanity and wildlife if this tree was to be cut down.

I am calling on the planners to keep this precious and life saving resource as once gone Romsey would be missing an old friend.

Yours Hopefully

From:
Sent: 31 March 2021 14:22
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: reference:TPO.TVBC.1223

I write to register my support of a permanent TPO being placed on the Sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens.

When I first moved into Riverside Gardens ; I had the pleasure of looking out on to a beautiful Weeping Willow which unfortunately got blown down in a storm some years ago and I was devastated. I do however now have the pleasure of being able to see and admire this Sycamore tree from my house, which is very welcome in the midst of so much bricks and mortar, not to mention the good it does for the environment.

I do walk past this part of Riverside every evening and do not find any problem whatsoever with danger on the pavement caused by the tree.

I thank you for your consideration to this matter.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 01 April 2021 17:59

To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>

Subject: Ref: TPO.TVBC.1233

This tree was growing long before the houses were in place. Surrounding trees were chopped down but this one survived. It is helping to combat climate change. We are currently being urged to plant more trees to help in this important matter. It is a home for birds provides shade and helps to enhance the appearance of the area. It is in no ones way. It is not in poor health. No specialist reports have been commissioned in relation to root damage and has not caused accidental damage to vehicles or surrounding housing. This tree should be protected at all costs.

From: Planning User
Sent: 01 Apr 2021 11:38:02
To:
Subject: FW: sycamore tree in riverside gardens
Attachments:

From:
Sent: 01 April 2021 11:37
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: sycamore tree in riverside gardens

please please dont cut this tree down,we need this tree for oxygen and the wildlife that lives in it.It would be a criminal offence if it was cut down just because someone,s veiw was spoiled.please please put a TPO on this tree a.s.a.p.ref tpo.tvbc.1223.

From:
Sent: 01 April 2021 17:36
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: ref TPO.TVBC.1223

I wish to request the placing of a permanent TPO on the sycamore tree REF TPO.TVBC.1223 for the following reasons:

This a healthy mature tree

It is well known that trees play a vital role in our eco system

It is not causing any critical damage to the area.

It seems to me that unless there is sound justification against, then the tree situated on the land between 69 -72 Riverside Gardens SO51 8HN should be granted a permanent TPO.

Yours sincerely,

-----Original Message-----

From: ,

Sent: 01 April 2021 14:04

To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>

Subject: Tree preservation ref.TPO.TVBC1223

I strongly support the placement of a permanent TPO on the Sycamore tree between 69-72 Riverside Gardens.

In this age of climate change no tree should be felled unless diseased or damaged and is a danger to the public or property. There appears to be no concrete evidence of this. We are being encouraged to plant trees in order to preserve our decreasing Flora and Fauna, in particular Bees who are essential to human existence .

Ref.TPO.TVBC1223

Romsey,
Hampshire)

Test Valley Borough Council
Beech Hurst
Weyhill Road,
Andover,
SP10 3AJ

2nd April 2021

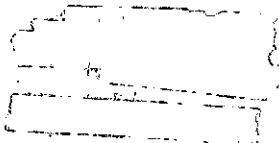
Attention of Rory Gogan/Dermot Cox

Dear Sirs:

Re: TPO TVBC 1223

1. So an application is submitted by an un-named person/s who does not declare a contact address and gives reasons which are untrue and unsupported by any evidence whatsoever. Person/s hiding under a cloak of secrecy want the sycamore tree cut down without good or obvious reason and hence the tree requires the protection of a TPO to keep it safe.
2. Some 48 letters have been received to TVBC Planning by local residents, 46 in favour of keeping the tree and two against. If democracy is to prevail a vote of this order means that the tree should be kept and protected by a TPO.
3. The sycamore in question is the last and only tree of significance on this estate. It supports insects and birds. Its striking form is very visible in Riverside Gardens plus it can be seen from the Memorial Park, The Causeway and from the rear of a number of properties in Middlebridge Street. A TPO is needed to give expression and crucial support to the current mood of protecting the environment and moving to a greener world.
4. Cut the tree down and it is gone forever. A TPO is required now to protect the situation as it is currently.

Yours faithfully,



-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 02 April 2021 21:26

To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>

Subject: TPO.TVBC.1223

Dear Sir

As a resident of Romsey Town I would like to add my opinion to the situation of the above referenced Sycamore Tree. I have got to confess the scientific/climate argument is above my station.

The nature side of the debate is obvious.

For me the overriding thought process is that the Tree is significant in its stature in being a part of what Romsey is all about.

The simple fact that residents of this wonderful town have made an issue of this predicament says it all.

A caring supportive community that always supports every event held have voiced there discontent and for that reason alone I think this action needs a great deal of thought and public debate before being sanctioned.

Yours Faithfully

From: Planning User
Sent: 06 Apr 2021 08:33:23
To: F
Subject: FW: TPO.TVBC1223
Attachments:

From: :
Sent: 02 April 2021 14:27
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: TPO.TVBC1223

Dear Sir

I would like to support the application for a TPO issue on The Sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens.

The tree causes minimal damage the pavement area. Freedom of information request to HCC shows zero complaints or damage caused by the path under the tree.

Going forward, root pruning and resurfacing of the pavement can easily be done if the path becomes damaged by tree roots.

The tree causes no damage to underground water pipes. The original applicant's photos of water pipes, 17th Nov 2020, I spoke to the water board inspectors that were onsite that day and they confirmed verbally to me that "there was no leaks found in the area".

The tree provides a valuable green corridor for birds and wildlife. Within the last year I have seen Tawney owls in it, Merlin bird sat on a wall 15 meters away, lots of bats in the area, this tree helps join up the north and south of the town.

If this tree were felled in my experience the roots in the surrounding area die down and cause considerably more soil movement than if the tree were living. When tree roots rot down in the soil this also leads to underground channels which the likes of rats can swiftly adopt!

Riverside gardens is very near the water table and lots of trees have been felled in this conservation area in recent years, current FOI request lodged to find out how many.

This tree is the last of it's size in a vast area tarmac and concrete which is a conservation area, therefore in our battle against climate change this tree should be protected for the future.

Yours faithfully

From: Planning User
Sent: 06 Apr 2021 08:37:42
To: !
Subject: FW: TPO TVBC 1223
Attachments:

From: Planning User
Sent: 02 April 2021 19:40
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: TPO TVBC 1223

I hereby support the TPO in Riverside Gardens Romsey Hants. Regards

From:
Sent: 03 April 2021 19:05
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: TPO

Reference [TPO.TVBC.1223](#)

I am in support of a permanent TPO for this tree as it is one of very few mature trees in the immediate area and adds amenity value to the built area.

It helps combat climate change and provides a protective habitat for insects and birds.

From:
Sent: 03 April 2021 09:35
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: TPO.TVBC.1223

I am writing in connection with the temporary TPO on a sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens, Romsey.

I find it incomprehensible that in this day and age a tree of such magnificent presence and stature should be endangered by minor complaints from local residents.

We are encouraged to plant many more trees and encouraged to protect our wildlife which is under such threat with climate changing. I treasure the number of birds we attract and am sure the removal of this tree would be to the detriment of the area.

The sycamore tree, in my opinion, is nothing but a truly wonderful part of the Riverside Gardens scene. It stands proud against the skyline and with no evidence to the contrary does no significant harm to local residences.

Its roots do encroach slightly to the back of the pathway but leaving ample space for a pram, pushchair or motorised disability vehicle.

The complaint that it encroaches on the drains of local a residence is not supported by any professional reports. This surely would be the first thing to be checked before attempting to remove such a vital tree which supports so much wildlife in this area.

In comparison, a neighbour of mine in Riverside Gardens has had to go to large expense to have her back garden wall rebuilt and garden reorganised because she was not able to have a tree removed which roots have encroached into her garden causing this damage.

I do trust that the tree is saved.

Many thanks

From:
Sent: 03 April 2021 19:19
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>;
Subject: Tree Felling in Riverside Gardens, Romsey

Dear Sir/Madam

Your ref. TPO.TVBC.1223

I write to express my opposition to the TVBC plan to cut down the sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens, Romsey.

I see no benefit whatsoever from cutting this tree down. Please do not go ahead with this unnecessary action.

Yours Faithfully

Tadburn, Romsey.

Head of Planning and Building,
Test Valley Borough Council,
Beech Hurst,
Weyhill Road,
Andover,
Hampshire SP10 3AJ

4th April 2021

Dear Sir,

Re: TPO.TVBC.1223

Further to planning application 20/03009/TREES - Land Between 69 - 72 Riverside Gardens and the Public Pavement, SO51 8HN - T1 Sycamore - Fell, I understand that as a consequence of this application a provisional TPO has been placed on the tree in question.

I believe very strongly that the Sycamore tree must be retained and protected by having a permanent TPO placed upon it.

No evidence or specialist reports has been provided by The Riverside Gardens Tree Removal Group to support the reasons put forward in favour of removing the tree:

Damage to pavement - current damage is very minor and is restricted to a small part of the pavement closest to the tree. The pavement width is more than sufficient for pedestrians, those with pushchairs/walking aids and users of mobility scooters

Damage to pipework serving surface water drainage on private driveway by No. 69

Riverside Gardens. The first time in years any maintenance/cleaning of this drain was undertaken was in November 2020. Drains should be regularly maintained. Drains can be repaired. The comment that 'suspicion' that the tree roots may have damaged the pipework to the drain serving the public highway is pure speculation. There is no evidence of, and never have been any drainage problems to the public highway in the vicinity of the tree.

Risk of tree root damage to nearby buildings - the Sycamore pre-dates the construction of 69 - 72 and 75 - 78 Riverside Gardens. It is presumed that the designs for the properties took account of the nearby tree, more especially as the ground conditions are not of shrinkable clay. If evidence is provided in the future to link subsidence damage to the tree, then an application can be submitted to carry out works.

Shedding of large branches in last two storms - no large branches have ever been shed by this tree (neighbour of years). Dermot Cox, Arboricultural Manager at TVBC confirmed there was no visual evidence to support this claim at a site meeting on 15th March 2021.

Cont.....

In support of a permanent TPO being placed on the Sycamore tree I would add:

the tree is due north of 69 - 72 Riverside Gardens so cannot block natural sunlight. The nearest dwellings are also set back from the tree

the tree is a skyline feature with a high amenity value. It is visible to dozens of residents living in this and the nearby roads, and it is visible from other surrounding areas.

the tree is in good health and has many years to contribute to it's amenity

it adds colour and seasonal interest and enhances this high density housing estate devoid of mature trees

it supports wildlife: notably a colony of starlings, who nest nearby

is a valuable tree for bees as it provides copious quantities of pollen/nectar early in the season.

attracts aphids and their predators, such as ladybirds, hoverflies and birds.. The leaves provide a food source to a number of species of moths,

as a species sycamore trees have a high tolerance to air pollution

the tree is contributing in the fight against climate change.

Yours faithfully,

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 04 April 2021 18:17

To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>

Subject: TPO.TVBC.1223

Dear Sir, I am asking that a permanent TPO be placed on this lovely old sycamore tree. There aren't many trees in Riverside Gardens and this one definitely enhances the surroundings of the streets. It is vital for nesting birds, bees and other wildlife. It is not in poor health and not an obstruction to the footpath.

It is totally unnecessary to take this tree down.

Regards,

From:
Sent: 04 April 2021 21:11
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: TPO TVBC 1223

Dear sir,

I wish for a TPO to be placed on the Sycamore tree as it provides a maturity to Riverside Gardens, and it is most important that trees should be preserves and not felled as they are an important ecological resource for birds, insects and safeguarding against air pollution

Kind regards

From:

Sent: 05 April 2021 21:41

To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>

Subject: Romsey Sycamore Tree - Felling Opposition - Reference TPO.TVBC.1223

To whom it may concern,

I'd like to state my opposition to the felling of the mature sycamore tree located in Riverside Gardens SO51 8HN.

Additionally, I would like to add my support to a permanent tree preservation order (TPO) for the tree being, as it is, one of the few mature trees in the area. It is a beautiful tree which is a haven for wildlife as well as adding to the well-being of local residents and visitors.

Please add and consider my comments alongside the other numerous voices supporting the permanent tree preservation order.

Sincerely,

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 05 April 2021 09:30

To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>

Subject: Sycamore tree TPO.TVBC.1223

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to request that a TPO be placed on the sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens.

This is one of very few trees in the area of Riverside Gardens and Middlebridge Street and as such it plays an important role in benefiting the community and more importantly local wildlife. The tree is an asset to the local area and it is always uplifting to see it when walking in and out of Riverside Gardens.

The tree appears to be perfectly healthy and no evidence has been produced to justify its removal.

This tree is an important sanctuary for insects, moths butterflies and birds. I often see birds roosting and using the tree as a staging post. As well as the obvious benefits for wildlife the tree provides character and it is a proven help against air pollution.

For the above reasons we should be planting more trees , rather than removing them.

Yours faithfully,

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 05 April 2021 10:01

To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>

Subject: TPO.TVBC.1223

I wish to support the placing of a permanent TPO on the sycamore tree on the land between 69-72 Riverside Gardens Living very nearby and familiar with this tree I notice that it provides an important station post for birds, to feed from, nest and seek <https://scanner.topsec.com/?t=89a3044c1ab504917a428062cde8af54f20828e7&d=2471&u=shelter.It&r=show> also plays an important role for a variety of insects to live and thrive which in turn supports all cycles of life. It is proven that trees combat pollution in the air and thus is a health benefit to the community. There is no evidence that the tree is unsafe and a danger to the public and given the benefits I have stated above there are no reasons why the tree should be removed.

From:
Sent: 05 April 2021 22:34
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Cc:
Subject: TPO.TVBC.1223

Hello,

I'm emailing in support of a permanent Tree Preservation Order being put in place to ring-fence the mature sycamore in Riverside Gardens, Romsey, SO51 8HN.

The tree is in good health, and provides an important habitat for a wide variety of flora and fauna - from mosses and lichens and the invertebrates which feed on them, to passerines such as bullfinch, long-tailed tit and chiffchaff, which in turn help boost a small local population of sparrowhawk.

It would be incredibly short-sighted to remove such a magnificent, and ecologically important tree, which currently poses no issue and simultaneously adds hugely to the richness of the area.

Hopefully you will be able to provide me with a positive update on the implementation of this TPO soon.

Many thanks,

From:
Sent: 05 April 2021 21:01
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: TPO. TVBC. 1223

I would like to express my support for a Tree Preservation Order (TPO. TVBC. 1223) for the sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens. It is in a conservation area and supports local wildlife. Test Valley Council have declared a climate emergency and it must be a priority to ensure the survival of all healthy, established trees.

Yours sincerely
_

From:
Sent: 05 April 2021 11:40
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: REF: TPO.TVBC.1223

The above reference applies to an attempt to place an TPO on a sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens, Romsey. An attempt by a group called 'The Riverside Gardens Tree Removal Group' to resist a permanent TPO on this tree should be resisted since

All the points I made in the submission to place a provisional TPO on this tree are still valid but to summarise:

- *The tree has an amenity value in that it is the only mature tree of any size in Riverside Gardens and visible to nearly all residents from their homes.*
- *The tree was a mature specimen before the dwellings (number 69 - 72) were built and suitable drainage should have been installed at the building stage to prevent root ingress.*
- *The tree is unquestionably a site sustaining several wildlife species, some wholly dependent on the sycamore as a food source.*
- *The value of trees as a carbon sink is well documented.*
- *There is no visual evidence of branches being shed by the tree as is claimed.*
- *The claim that the footway is so damaged that pedestrian passage (especially by push chairs et al) are obviously untrue as visual inspection supports.*
- *There appears to be little or no specialist, professional reports available to support the claims made by the Tree Removal Group.*

As an additional point, if this tree were on the Hillier Arboretum, it is possible it would be considered as a specimen tree or possibly even a Champion Tree as mature sycamores are relatively uncommon.

Please take my points into consideration when deciding, as you should, to place a TPO on this local resource.

From: <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 April 2021 09:08
To:
Subject: FW: TPO.TVBC.1223
Attachments: IP - TPO.TVBC.1223.pdf

From:
Sent: 05 April 2021 09:08
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Cc: Cox, Dermot <DCox@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: TPO.TVBC.1223

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find attached letter in support of a TPO being placed on the Sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens.

Yours faithfully,

From: Planning User
Sent: 06 Apr 2021 08:47:12
To:
Subject: FW: TPO.TVBC.1223
Attachments:

From:
Sent: 03 April 2021 18:24
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: TPO.TVBC.1223

Dear Planning committee,

I am writing to make my strong objections to the proposed felling of the sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens known to you. In this time of climate change any proposal to fell trees has to be subject to rigorous appraisal. The photographic evidence that this tree is causing significant damage to the pavement is risible. The tree predates the property and so the home owners were aware of its presence when they purchased their property, and everyone knows trees grow. If there is root damage (which is not clear) the first action would be to repair the drain, you don't destroy a life to fix a pipe.

Please refuse this application,

Yours sincerely,

Test Valley Resident

From: <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 April 2021 09:02
To:
Subject: FW: TPO.TVBC.1223

From:
Sent: 04 April 2021 18:17
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: TPO.TVBC.1223

Dear Sirs

I wish to support the application for a permanent TPO (Tree Preservation Order) to be placed on the mature sycamore tree ref TPO.TVBC.1223 for the following reasons :-

The reasons given in the original application for the felling of the tree have absolutely no substance and are flimsy at least with no supporting evidence or professional reports supplied.

1. Regarding large branches falling on cars, No evidence has been submitted to substantiate any of these claims.
2. The tree being too close to the neighbouring properties. No evidence provided to back up this claim.
3. Describing the ripping up of the pavement is an exaggeration to say the least. This is not a very busy path or road and the slight lifting of tarmac at the edge of the path could easily be rectified. The pavement width is more than sufficient for pushchairs and mobility scooters to use due to its 160 cm width. As for it being a trip hazard, as far as I am aware there have been no cases of people tripping and suffering injury? Once again, no evidence to support this claim.
4. As for the drain, have there been any issues of flooding caused by root intrusion? Once again, no evidence has been submitted. I have been informed that a drain sleeve could be inserted?
5. This is a healthy prominent tree that falls within the conversation area and is an important part of the street scene that can be seen from many different aspects and supports an array of wildlife.

The following photos indicate just how important this tree is to the local street scene and surrounding views.







So in conclusion, I would ask that you appreciate just how important this tree is in an area of dwindling mature trees and would strongly urge you to make this TPO permanent.

Yours Faithfully

From: Planning User
Sent: 06 Apr 2021 09:34:44
To:
Subject: FW: Sycamore Tree in Riverside Gardens
Attachments:

From:
Sent: 05 April 2021 23:05
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: Sycamore Tree in Riverside Gardens

From:
Sent: 05 April 2021 22:51
To: planning@testvalley.gov.uk
Subject: Sycamore Tree in Riverside Gardens

We would like to add our voices to the placing of a permanent Tree Preservation Order on the tree in Riverside Gardens.

There are few mature trees in the centre of Romsey and this particular specimen gives pleasure to many of the surrounding houses. We presume that those who desire its demise bought their properties knowing that the tree was there but now wish it to be removed. We and our neighbours enjoy seeing the tree from our gardens and when out walking and it isn't in close proximity to the flats behind.

We are told that trees do good in many ways, both for humans and many insect and bird species so shouldn't we all be trying to preserve healthy specimens? There is so much decimation of our countryside every year which in turn affects our wildlife and it seems that we in Romsey should try to do our bit to preserve something that gives our built-up area character and seasonal interest. If we are not careful, we will end up with a collection of high-density housing with little greenery.

Dear

Thank you for your email concerning the provisional tree preservation order. TPO.TVBC.123 at 69-72 Riverside Gardens, Romsey.

By copy of this email, your email will be passed to the tree officer for consideration.

Kind regards

Planning & Building Service
Test Valley Borough Council
planning@testvalley.gov.uk
www.testvalley.gov.uk



From:
Sent: 06 April 2021 14:42
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: Fw: Sycamore tree

Tree Officer, T V B C,

Dear Sir,

You will see from the string I sent our comments to HCC instead of TVBC planning.

Since it is now past the cut off date you may not wish to consider it.

From:
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 2:29 PM
To:
Subject: Re: Sycamore tree

Many thanks for pointing out my error. I picked up Planning in my address book not thinking about HCC.

I have missed the deadline at TVBC, but may send it.

Many thanks,

From: Strategic Planning
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 7:55 AM
To:
Subject: RE: Sycamore tree

Thank you for your email, but you have sent this to us in error, you need to sent it to Test Valley Borough Council. I attach a link to their website where you can search for the information you require and obtain contact details

<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/>

Regards

**Planning Support Manager
Strategic Planning**

Economy Transport and Environment

Ell Court West
The Castle
Winchester
Hampshire
SO23 8UD

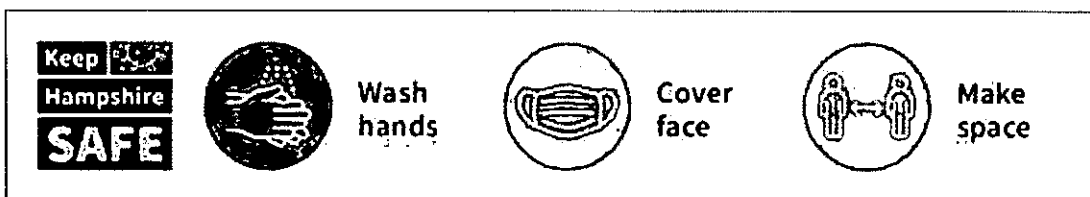


Hampshire Services offers a range of professional consultancy services to partner organisations.
www.hants.gov.uk/shareexpertise

Strategic Planning offers a pre-application service to help improve the quality of applications and speed up decision-making. Information on the Council's pre-application service is available [here](#).

In support of the e-government agenda, the County Council welcomes the online submission of planning applications which can be submitted [here](#).

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From:
Sent: 05 April 2021 13:22
To: Strategic Planning <planning@hants.gov.uk>
Subject: Sycamore tree

Tree Officer,
T V B C,
T V Planning,
Beech Hurst,
Weyhill Road,
Andover.

Ref TPO TVBC. 1223

Dear Sir,

We are writing in support of placing a permanent TPO on the Sycamore tree on the land between 69-72 Riverside Gardens and the footway, SO51 8HN.

In the last we have been in Middlebridge Street we have come to appreciate the Sycamore as part of the wider landscape in this increasing urban area.

We drive and walk past it. It is the only substantial tree in the street, not causing any problems.

It is an important gathering point for the local starlings.

It is, and the only food source for the local wildlife.

It does its bit for the climate and soaks up water.

The tree gives pleasure to many local residents and visitors and greatly improves the street scene. It would be a pity that a few new residents (The Riverside Removal Group) prevail over the majority.

This tree should be given the protection it deserves.

From: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 April 2021 09:37
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Permanent TPO

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email re the sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens, Romsey. This will be passed to the tree officer, Rory Gogan for consideration.

Planning & Building Service
Test Valley Borough Council
planning@testvalley.gov.uk
www.testvalley.gov.uk



From: [redacted]
Sent: 06 April 2021 08:42
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: Permanent TPO

Dear Test Valley,

I am emailing to express my support for a permanent Tree Preservation Order to be placed on the mature sycamore in Riverside Gardens. Reference TPO.TVBC.1223.

The sycamore is a life raft for wildlife in an area with shockingly few mature trees, supporting biodiversity at all levels from plants, fungi, insects, birds and small mammals to apex predators like the peregrine falcon. Wildlife has declined by 70% since 1960; no habitat is too insignificant to save.

In the midst of an accelerating climate emergency, we also cannot continue to add fuel to the fire by felling these precious carbon stores. We must learn to share our space with other organisms, particularly those providing ecosystem services that we literally rely on for our own lives – whether that's carbon sequestration, water filtration or nutrient recycling.

The benefit of trees to humans' mental health is also now well-documented. Why destroy this natural health service on our doorstep? With so many still isolating at home or working from home on a more permanent basis, our local streets must support our wellbeing.

Tackling the climate, biodiversity and health crises has to be our overriding priority in every decision-making process. Placing a TPO on this sycamore is one opportunity for positive progress. I have every faith that the council can work around the apparent – unsubstantiated – hazards it causes, whether that's raising the pavement to ensure

a smooth surface or removing roots from drains. It is a small price to pay for the long-term benefits this tree provides to the climate, wildlife and health of local residents.

Yours faithfully,

From: Planning User

Sent: 06 Apr 2021 09:50:05

To:

Subject: RE: Comments in support of a temporary TPO becoming a full TPO - TPO.TVBC.1223 Sycamore Tree between 69-72 Riverside Gardens, Romsey

Attachments: image005.png, image006.png, image007.png, image008.png, image001.png,

Dear

Thank you for your comments on the sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens, Romsey. Your comments will be passed to the trees officer, Rory Gogan, for consideration.

Kind regards

Planning & Building Service

Test Valley Borough Council

planning@testvalley.gov.uk

www.testvalley.gov.uk



From:

Sent: 06 April 2021 08:27

To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>

Subject: Comments in support of a temporary TPO becoming a full TPO - TPO.TVBC.1223 Sycamore Tree between 69-72 Riverside Gardens, Romsey

Dear Sirs

The original objection letter of [redacted] : from [redacted] : in respect of application 20/03009/TREES to fell the sycamore tree in question , [redacted] the tree to be felled for 25 years contains some detailed information and photographs on the tree itself.

In the first instance, it has to be reiterated that tree in question was in existence before planning permission was granted and the construction of 69 - 72 Riverside Gardens 75 - 78 Riverside Gardens took place. It is presumed that the appropriate design safeguards were taken to ensure that the tree roots to the sycamore never affected the aforementioned properties. In any event, local soils are not of a shrinkable clay type. In the original application form, it was stated that :

Given the distance the tree roots have travelled along water pipework there is now a strong possibility that the root will be growing under a neighbouring building.

No evidence such as an engineer's or building surveyor's report has been submitted in respect of this speculative assertion. Tree roots will grow far more easily along drainage runs. If tree roots are considered to be a potential hazard to a building , crown reduction or the installation can be effective preventative measures.

In the application form the following appeared:

Its growth over the last ten years has pulled up the public pavement. The pavement no longer meets legislative requirements for disabled people or for pushchairs. With cars parking the other side of the road (and no pavement) it is causing people to walk in the road instead of on the pavement. It causes a significant trip hazard in the dark.

Whilst it is accepted that some limited unevenness has occurred on the pavement surface immediately adjacent to the tree, the photographs supplied by [redacted] show the extent of unevenness, which would seem to decry the assertion that "the pavement no longer meets legislative requirements"

In letter, the following appeared:

The damage to the water pipework concerns a surface water drain located on the private driveway serving Flats 6 9 - 72 Riverside Gardens, 73 & 74 Riverside Gardens and Kents Almshouses. I raised concern regarding this surface water drain. The drain required unblocking. To the best of my knowledge this drain has never been cleaned since the construction of Nos 69 - 72 Riverside Gardens in the 1990's. The contractor employed to clean the drain discovered that tree roots, from the sycamore, had blocked the drain. The roots have been removed from the drain run the surface water drain which is now draining properly. Regular cleaning/maintenance of the surface water drain would have prevented the tree roots causing a problem.

The information supplied as part of the original application advises that the applicant is an absentee landowner whose apparent reason for continuing to own the land and tree on it was because it forms a ransom strip. A ransom strip might not be very effective with a tree on it. It is presumed that the applicant is a local property developer who has many and extensive land holdings in Hampshire and is a former Hampshire County Councillor. As a property developer and property owner, the applicant would be aware of the need to inspect and maintain trees on a regular basis. As a local resident and from the information supplied by others, it would appear that this tree has not benefitted from any crown reduction works or the provision of underground tree guards to drainage runs etc. Although a sycamore is not regarded as a tree of great merit in terms of species, this particular tree as stated by others is one of very few trees in the locality and is of attractive shape and form. Whilst it is fully accepted that as a species sycamore might not have a very long life expectancy and can produce many seeds in the autumn, which can give rise to considerable sapling generation. However its life should not be terminated by felling it completely because the current owner has failed to maintain it appropriately.

As a who has undertaken many on properties with trees within a zone of influence, I do not consider that this tree represents a danger to nearby properties. As it is apparent that the tree pre-dates the construction of the relatively new properties that adjoin it, it is presumed that the designs for the properties took account of the nearby tree, more especially as the ground conditions are not of shrinkable clay. I would therefore consider that with some crown reduction works and regular monitoring of its roots, there is no need to remove this tree in its entirety, more especially when it provides a haven for local wildlife and amenity for local residents.

This email and any information that it contains are confidential and is intended for the specified recipients only. If you have received this message in error, please firstly accept my apologies for its misdirection. I would be grateful if you would however advise me that you have received it in error and destroy any electronic or paper copy of this e-mail. You should be aware that any unauthorised review, storage, distribution, copying, disclosure or the taking of any action in reliance upon this communication or the information in it is prohibited and may in certain circumstances be unlawful.

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From: Planning User
Sent: 07 Apr 2021 05:33:59
To:
Subject: RE: Ref. TPO.TVBC.1223 Sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens
Attachments: image003.png, image004.png, image007.png, image008.png,

Dear

Thank you for your email received at 17:05 on Wednesday 7 April 2021.

By copy of this email, I will forward your comment to the Tree Officer dealing with this tree preservation order for his consideration.

Kind regards

Planning & Building Service
Test Valley Borough Council
@testvalley.gov.uk
www.testvalley.gov.uk



From: >
Sent: 07 April 2021 17:05
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: Ref. TPO.TVBC.1223 Sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens

Please note that I thought I had submitted this in time but now realise that I had used the incorrect email address for Test Valley Planning.

I hope you can still consider it.



Delivery incomplete

There was a temporary problem delivering your message to planning@testvalley.co.uk. Gmail will retry for 45 more hours. You'll be notified if the delivery fails permanently.

Arrival-Date: Mon, 05 Apr 2021 05:10:34 -0700 (PDT)

From:
Subject: Ref. TPO.TVBC.1223 Sycamore tree in Riverside Gardens
Date: 5 April 2021 at 13:10:33 BST
To: planning@testvalley.co.uk

I am writing in support of the proposed permanent TPO on the sycamore in Riverside Gardens.

In support of this, I make the following comments

No survey has been submitted to show that this tree is diseased and/or unsafe structurally . No evidence has been submitted to confirm the assertions that large branches have fallen and caused damage in recent times. As a resident of Riverside Gardens for over 10 years, I have never heard or seen evidence of any branches falling from it, whether causing damage or not.

This native mature tree is host to a wealth of wildlife and this supports the natural diversity of the environment here, supporting a wide range of insects, birds and foraging bats.

As the last remaining mature tree, which predates the development 69-72 Riverside Gardens, it enhances and softens the street scene in Riverside Gardens. It was protected whilst the flats were being built and should remain so . If drains were dug too close to the roots, and there appears to be no proof of damage from the tree roots, then the problem lies with the builder/developer rather than the tree.

Damage to the adjoining pavement is minimal - and at this point the pavement is wider than average. There are many places in Romsey where tree damage to the pavement is much greater and possibly inhibits passing with a mobility vehicle. That is not the case here.

I look forward to hearing that the TPO will be made permanent.

Yours

Dear

Thank you for your email received at 10.49 on Wednesday 7 April 2021.

By copy of this email, I will forward your comment to the trees officer for consideration.

Kind regards

Senior Support Officer
Planning & Building Service
Test Valley Borough Council
r@testvalley.gov.uk
www.testvalley.gov.uk

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 07 April 2021 10:49
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: TPO.TVBC.1223

Good morning.

I wish to add my voice to those who are writing in to support the long term protection of this tree by the confirmation of the temporary TPO.

There are too few trees in this part of Romsey and this one, despite its species, adds enormously to the street scene and the amenity value of the area. The application to fell is based upon false premises. The damage to the pavement is minimal, the supposed root penetration of drains is not supported by a professional report and there are no substantiated reports of injury or damage caused by falling limbs.

Best wishes

From: Planning User
Sent: 09 Apr 2021 08:06:04
To:
Subject: RE: TPO.TVBC.1223
Attachments: image003.png, image004.png, image005.png,

Dear

Thank you for your email dated 8th April 2021, which has been passed to the Tree team for consideration.

Yours sincerely

Planning & Building

Test Valley Borough Council
Beech Hurst
Weyhill Road
Andover
SP10 3AJ



From:
Sent: 08 April 2021 18:29
To: Planning User <planning@testvalley.gov.uk>
Subject: TPO.TVBC.1223

Dear Sir / Madame,

I'm writing to express concern and object to plans to destroy a Sycamore tree in Riverside Gardes, Romsey. This is a beautiful mature tree one of the only ones in this area which is home and shelter to lots of wildlife and birds which is a special part of Romsey. I'm concerned by all the tree felling that is going on at the moment as this is not good for the environment but when a beautiful, healthy, mature tree like this is due to be cut down it is especially upsetting.

Trees are so important to maintain biodiversity in the area and with so much building and new housing this is so important to ensure our wildlife is not driven out. I would hate to think that Romsey starts to look like a concrete jungle with all the beautiful greenery and foliage taken away but it really does seem this way.

Please reconsider the plans to remove this tree it would be a terrible loss to the area.

Kindest regards,

Local Resident

Test Valley Borough Council,
Beech Hurst,
Weyhill Road,
Andover,
Hampshire SP10 3AJ

5th April 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

TPO.TVBC.1223

I write to support the move to change the provisional TPO on the sycamore tree into permanent one.

This tree has been there for years. It is not an obstruction, is not dangerous but is an asset to the area.

I lived in Riverside Gardens over years ago when it was a leafy area. The sycamore is the sole survivor of the trees at the western end of Riverside Gardens. At the eastern end, a large willow was taken down some years but no replacement was put in its' place. What a shame!