

BOROUGH OF POOLE

BRIEFING NOTE TO COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

20 NOVEMBER 2013

REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

The TPO review is a substantial undertaking that requires a significant amount of work in identifying area Orders that need updating; carrying out in-depth surveys and plotting of trees; amenity assessments; large-scale consultations with landowners and neighbours; dealing with objections and attendance at Planning Committee where TPO's are opposed. Many of the larger area Orders are located in the more affluent parts of the borough with the densest tree populations. Plotting of trees in these areas by conventional visual and paper based methods is both difficult and laborious. The limited available resources and manpower, together with the current pressure on the Council to make significant financial savings, has meant that no meaningful review of area Orders has taken place for a number of years, although new TPO's continue to be made where it is expedient to do so.

A review of old Orders in certain areas could be undertaken by specifically targeting those where the demands on trees are greatest, i.e.

- Development pressure
- High numbers of tree work applications
- Young trees have developed that are not protected by the TPO

Many area orders cover large areas of land that encompasses many properties. It is not feasible to update TPO's whilst dealing with tree work applications of the same property as this would create multiple individual TPO's that sit on top of existing orders. This approach would result in duplication of many of the processes and still result in an old area TPO that has not been fully updated and cannot be revoked.

Area Orders should be reviewed in their entirety in order to reduce the impact on the council's resources and provide a TPO that is fit for purpose. Given these difficulties the Group is asked for views on the prioritisation of Area Orders to determine a suitable way forward.