

PLANNING COMMITTEE	
Date	05/03/2025
Title	TPO05/2024

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the current situation in respect of confirmation of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) Vicarage Close, Chatteris

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A provisional Tree Preservation Order was placed on a single Sycamore Tree at Vicarage Close, Chatteris on 12th December 2024. The tree is situated partially within the rear garden of 13 St Martins Road and straddles the eastern boundary of the site which runs parallel to Vicarage Close.
- 2.2 The Council's Arboricultural Officer was alerted to potential works to the Sycamore tree and has requested that T1 1 x Sycamore tree has a Tree Preservation Order placed on it as there is therefore a potential risk of the tree being removed, that offers wider public amenity without suitable arboricultural justification for its removal. The tree is considered to offer wider public amenity as it is highly visible from within Vicarage Close, but also along St Martins Road.
- 2.3 Matters relating to the issue and confirmation of a TPO are normally dealt with by delegated powers and confirmations are only referred to this Committee where objections to the Order are received.
- TPO objection
- 2.4 1 objection and 1 letter of response was received from address points along Vicarage Close.

3. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members confirm the TPO in respect of the T1 1x Sycamore Tree

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Council's Arboricultural Officer was alerted to potential works to the Sycamore tree and has therefore requested that T1 1 x Sycamore tree has a Tree Preservation Order placed on it.
- 4.2 The Council's Arboricultural Officer has rated the condition and suitability of the tree for a TPO as fair/satisfactory.

5. PROPOSAL

- 5.1 The Order encompasses T1 1x Sycamore Tree A provisional Tree Preservation Order was placed on the tree on 12th December 2024.
- 5.2 The tree is situated partially within the rear garden of 13 St Martins Road, however does straddle the eastern boundary of No. 13 which borders onto Vicarage Close. Chatteris Conservation Area is situated to the north-west of the site, however does not encompass the site or tree itself.
- 5.3 The Arboricultural Officer has noted that the tree offers wider public amenity and there is not suitable arboricultural justification for the removal of the tree. The tree offers wider public amenity as it is highly visible from within Vicarage Close, but also along St Martins Road.

6 PLANNING HISTORY

- 6.1 No pertinent planning history on site.

7 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 FDC Arboricultural Officer

There is a potential risk of the tree being removed, that offers wider public amenity without suitable arboricultural justification for its removal.

7.2 Local Residents/Interested Parties

The objection received from 3 Vicarage Close stated the following:

With regard to the tree in question we haven't any issues other than it appears to be dying with the branches becoming brittle, there is a lot of Ivy that seems to be choking it. We have in the past picked the odd branch up which has fallen/broken off.

You can see there has previously been some branches cut off before we moved here which we assume was due to them being dangerous.

The only concern we have is who is responsible should there be further branches that fall off that cause damage or worse hurt someone, there are always cars parked in the close vicinity which is the shared access road for 4 houses not to mention the families and their children.

- The letter of response received from 5 Vicarage Close stated the following:

I reside at 5 Vicarage Close and have done for roughly 8/9 years. The tree although has never caused me an issue, has grown tremendously in the time I have lived there as has the Ivy growing up and around it. There has also been fallen branches during high/strong winds.

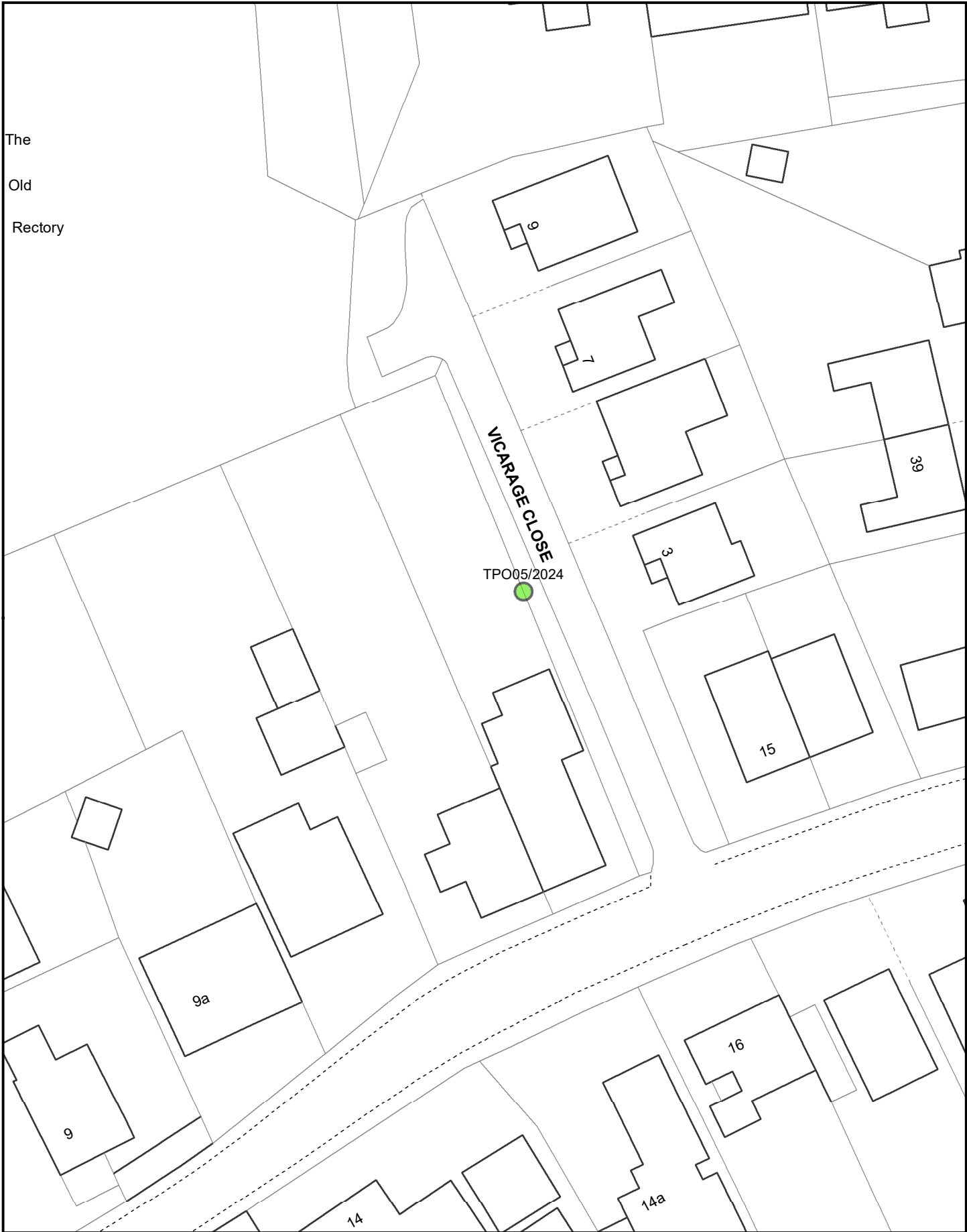
I as do another neighbour have concerns over who is responsible for the tree should there be injury or damage should a branch fall and either hit someone or damage property etc. I am also aware the trees roots are growing under the opposite neighbours shed, again who is responsible for damage caused?

Has or is there going to be an inspection of the tree?

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Matters relating to the issue and confirmation of a TPO are normally dealt with by delegated powers and confirmations are only referred to Committee where objections to an Order are received, as in this case.
- 8.2 One objection and one letter of response have been received from address points along Vicarage Close. These letters predominantly raised concerns regarding who responsibility falls on, should the condition of the tree deteriorate.
- 8.3 The maintenance and general responsibility of TPO tree is the owners'. Due consideration has been given to the objection from the resident at Vicarage Close, however the tree is considered important to the wider public amenity surrounding the site and is considered to be in good health with good longevity.
- 8.4 The placement of a TPO does not prevent tree works or even removal but gives the Local Planning Authority control over 'inappropriate' or uncontrolled works. Applications can be made to undertake regular maintenance. Applications for works to TPO trees are free of charge.
- 8.5 It is therefore recommended that the TPO is confirmed.

The
Old
Rectory



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TPO05/2024

Vicarage Close, Chatteris
T01 - 1x Sycamore Tree

