

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11**PLANNING COMMITTEE****Date** 04/03/2026**Title** TPO01/2026**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) Station Street, Chatteris.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A provisional Tree Preservation Order (TPO) was placed on a single Eucalyptus Tree at Station Street, Chatteris on the 13th January 2026. The tree is situated within the front garden of No. 23 Station Street Chatteris and is highly visible from the surrounding public realm.
- 2.2 The Provisional (TPO) was placed on the Eucalyptus Tree following an application for works to trees in a Conservation Area, application reference F/YR25/0917/TRCA. This application proposed Works to 1 Silver Birch Tree, 1 Yew Tree and 1 Sequoia Tree and the felling of 1 Eucalyptus Tree and 1 Sycamore Tree within a conservation area.
- 2.3 The Council's Arboricultural Officer was consulted on the above application and raised an objection to the felling of the Eucalyptus Tree as the tree is a prominent tree within the street scene with high amenity value. No suitable justification was provided for the removal of this tree and therefore a TPO was recommended.
- 2.4 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 Objections

- 2.5 Two letters of objection have been received from address points along Station Street, including one from the occupier of No. 23 Station Street. It is not considered that the issues raised would justify not confirming the TPO.

3. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members confirm the TPO in respect of the T01 1 x Eucalyptus Tree.

Forward Plan Reference No. (if applicable)	Not applicable
Portfolio Holder(s)	Not applicable
Report Originator	Kimberley Crow, Development Officer
Contact Officer(s)	David Rowen, Development Manager
Background Paper(s)	N/A

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Provisional (TPO) was placed on the Eucalyptus Tree following an application for works to trees in a Conservation Area, application reference F/YR25/0917/TRCA. This application proposed Works to 1 Silver Birch Tree, 1 Yew Tree and 1 Sequoia Tree and felling of 1 Eucalyptus Tree and 1 Sycamore Tree within a conservation area. The Council's Arboricultural Officer was consulted on the above application and raised an objection to the felling of the Eucalyptus Tree as the tree is a prominent tree within the street scene with high amenity value. No suitable justification was provided for the removal of this tree and therefore a TPO was recommended. No objections were raised to the other works proposed and such works now benefit from deemed consent.
- 4.2 The Council's Arboricultural Officer has undertaken a Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders (TEMPO) an 'industry standard' assessment in which the value of the tree is assessed against a number of criteria. Part 3 of the TEMPO relates to the TPO decision guide, in which any score above 15 'Definitely merits TPO'. The score for the Eucalyptus tree was 16.

5. PROPOSAL

- 5.1 The Order encompasses T01 1 x Eucalyptus Tree. A provisional Tree Preservation order was placed on the tree on 13th January 2026.
- 5.2 The tree is situated within the front garden of No. 23 Station Street. The Arboricultural Officer has confirmed that the tree is a prominent feature within the street scene and its removal would impact on wider public amenity. No suitable justification was provided within the Tree Works application to justify the removal of the tree.

6. PLANNING HISTORY

Reference	Description	Decision
F/YR16/1097/TRCA	Fell 1 x Sycamore tree, 1 x Goat Willow tree and 2 x Poplar trees within a Conservation Area	Granted 10/01/2017
F/YR03/0744/TREES/CA	Works to 2 no. Poplar Trees within a Conservation Area	Granted 12/08/2003

7. CONSULTATIONS

7.1 FDC Arboricultural Officer

An application has been made to remove the tree with no suitable arboricultural justification for this. The tree is a prominent feature in the street scene and removal would impact on wider public amenity.

7.2 Local Residents/Interested Parties

Two letters of objection were received regarding the provisional TPO from address points along Station Street, including the occupier of No. 23. The reasons for objection are as follows:

- Tree is not of British origin
- Tree roots could damage foundations

- Length and height of the tree could damage adjacent house, roof and fence and pollarding wouldn't address this.
- Not part of the original street scene
- Professional arboricultural advice has identified structural defects and instability
- Previous notification to the Council regarding falling branches
- Disproportionate growth affecting nearby trees and boundary
- Health and safety of public

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 Two letters of objections have been received. The reasons for objection are addressed below:

Tree is not of British origin

Paragraph 011 of the Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation area guidance states that 'Protected trees can be of any size or species'. The fact that the tree is not of British origin is therefore does not justify the felling of the tree and does not preclude a TPO being placed on the tree.

Potential to cause damage to foundations and neighbouring property

No Arboricultural information or justification has been provided regarding damage to foundations and neighbouring property.

Not part of the original Street Scene

The tree is a prominent feature within the street scene, and its removal is considered to impact on wider public amenity

Arboricultural advice has identified structural defects and instability

No Arboricultural justification or report was provided for the removal of the tree under the previous application

Health and Safety of public/falling branches etc

No Arboricultural justification or evidence suggesting that the tree was a safety risk was provided under the previous application

Disproportionate growth

No Arboricultural justification or evidence was provided suggested that the tree was disproportionately growing, nor any justification as to why such growth could not be addressed through pruning works.

8.3 The concerns raised within the letters of objection are therefore not considered sufficient to justify not placing a TPO on the tree.

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.

8.4 It is therefore recommended that the TPO is confirmed.



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TPO01/2026
Station Street, Chatteris
T01 Eucalyptus

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Fenland District Council