

## **Fuzzy Drove – Tree Information**

Questions were raised at the public meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> June with respect to trees and tree management on Fuzzy Drove, and within the wider borough. Responses to these questions can be noted below:

**1) Can we publish a map of Fuzzy Drove noting the trees with a Tree Protection Order (TPO) on them?**

There are no Tree Preservation Orders in place at Fuzzy Drove.

**2) Can the council publish a map of all the TPO'd trees in the borough on their website so people can easily look up this information**

This map is already published and can be found on the Council website. Click [here](#) to visit the page and look at the map.

It should be noted that Government advice is that Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) are used with discretion, to ensure appropriate trees are protected. We must justify our reasons for serving an order. A TPO is an order that protects significant trees, which may be under threat. The order makes it an offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, damage or destroy a tree without the Council's permission.

**3) When trees are removed, why aren't they always replaced?**

Trees cannot always be replaced when they are removed and it depends largely on the circumstances behind the removal. It's not always appropriate to re-plant, for example in an area that is already overstocked or if there is a lack of underground or over ground space to establish a new tree. Some trees that have had works undertaken on them will regrow through coppicing. Occasionally, replacement trees are best established through the process of natural regeneration.

**4) Why has a pot of money been set aside for trees? Where has this come from and why can't it be used to re-plant trees**

In 2014, the council produced a strategy for managing council-owned trees. Over a 5 year period, we will be investing in the borough's tree resource with a focus on removing nuisance trees. Action 5 relates to tree planting with a view to increasing the number of trees in areas of low tree cover. More information can be found [here](#)

**5) What is the councils approach to taking down trees with a TPO on them, can they just do what they want?**

The question is wider than just managing trees with a TPO on them. The Council manages over 60,000 trees and 100 ha of woodland. Decisions on tree management are

always made within the context of the wider benefit of trees to the public and wildlife conservation. Tree work is evaluated in relation to the assessment of risk posed, visual amenity and environmental benefit offered. Click [here](#) to find out more.

If a tree has a TPO on it, the council must follow the same process to remove it as anyone else, unless it is damaged or dangerous, in which case removal is exempt from the TPO process. Note this also applies to private residents if a tree is dead or dangerous.

**6) Is it possible for individuals to appeal against the removal, copping or pollarding of trees?**

Not if the work is required for safety reasons. If we have received an application to remove, pollard or coppice trees for non-safety reasons such as shade, then if we consider the tree to have some value in the landscape, we consult with adjacent residents who can lodge objections. If three or more objections are received the case will go to an appeal.

Coppicing hedgerow trees such as hazel can be undertaken by conservation groups, however this is always as part of an agreed management plan and is considered to be best practice habitat management in order to create a mosaic of habitat ages which in turn increases biodiversity

**7) What can people do if a council owned or managed tree is overhanging or shading their garden or property**

The council has an application process for trees that are causing non-safety related nuisances to a third party. On receipt of an application, we will look at the reasons put forward to support the request and assess the environmental impact of pruning or removing the tree. In some cases the council will fund the work - for example, if the tree is found to be dangerous or if it is causing damage to the property. We will also pay for the work if the tree is causing significant shade to the property following an objective assessment of the level of shade.

For more information on trees, please look at the Council website where you can find details on Protected Trees, Tree FAQ's, Council-owned Trees and more.

<http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/trees>