

We have an Oak tree (*Quercus Robur*) situated on our property; it has a Tree Preservation Order (TPO 1504) against it that we wish to be lifted please.

The purpose of a TPO is to 'protect trees that make a significant contribution to the local surroundings' and to protect its amenity value, however since the TPO was placed on the tree in 1992, it no longer fulfils that criteria:

- In 1992, the tree stood on its own in full view of passers-by on the main road and to the car park, since then our property no.5, no.7 next door and a block of flats has been built around it. We have a low traffic flow directly past our property so few people actually view the tree.
- It is no longer visible from the main road due to the buildings. From behind it is obscured by the large range of trees in "The Bog"
- We have spent several weeks surveying the birds that go into the tree and have noted that it really only attracts Pigeons, it does not offer any protection or food for smaller birds or animals other than rats that had made a nest at the bottom of the tree.
- "The bog" behind our property has many varieties of trees including large Oaks so it certainly doesn't enhance the local area and is not a rarity among the species locally, also over the road is a large wooded area and over to Purbook Heath. Its individual and wider impact is minimal.

Two Arborists have been around to look at the tree and have commented that the tree has severely overgrown its situation as it is now surrounded by buildings where previously it was not and is full of dead wood which is not only a danger to the surrounding properties but to our 3 young children inside. Following the storms last year, many large dead branches have fallen off.

After researching and getting advice we propose to replace it with a Rowan tree, which provides a rich source of autumn food for many varieties of bird, while in the spring the flowers provide nectar and pollen for bees. Speaking to our neighbours neither has an issue with it being replaced for safety and aesthetic reasons. It particularly poses an issue for our neighbour at number 3 as it causes a lot of shade into the front of her property and is growing over her roof.

I have attached an application form and a few files to support our letter.

We are more than happy to discuss this or elaborate on any of our comments above.