

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Planning Development Management Committee

DATE: 24 April 2014

CORPORATE DIRECTOR: Gordon McIntosh

LEAD HEAD OF SERVICE: Margaret Bochel

TITLE OF REPORT: Tree Works at Friarsfield Road, Cults

REPORT NUMBER: EPI/14/107

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report advises the Committee of an application for tree work that has been received for the removal of trees that are the subject of Tree Preservation Order Number 119. The proposed tree works include the removal of three (3) trees. The tree species are mainly conifers.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the committee: -

- Refuse consent to remove three (3) trees identified for removal.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

This report links to 'Aberdeen – The Smarter City' through the smarter environment (natural resources) policy 'We will provide a clean, safe and attractive streetscape and promote bio-diversity and nature conservation.'

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order and this allows the Council to protect trees that contribute to environment quality. The trees currently provide

shelter, shade, stabilize soil, act as dust and pollution traps and provide valuable habitat for wildlife. The trees have a significant landscape value and can be easily viewed from the public road. The Tree Preservation Order allows for elected members, Community Councils and members of the public to have the opportunity to comment on work to protected trees. To date no objections or representations have been received. Protecting and maintaining the environment quality and amenity of local areas supports investment and economic competitiveness.

6. REPORT

The trees that are the subject of the application for tree work are visible from the main road and forms and contributes towards wider woodland network. The three (3) trees identified for removal as part of the application is to allow development. No supporting evidence has been included with the application to provide a reasonable justification for the tree works as requested. The main reason stated for the tree removal is because the owner would like to extend the house on the existing driveway and develop a car park by removing the trees. The other reasons provided to remove the trees are that they are outgrown providing risk to the property and are unattractive and look ugly.

On the whole the majority of the trees within the application site are set back off the road, within private property and the risk to public safety is minimal.

The lack of an appropriate assessment of the condition of the trees within the property does not provide sufficient justification for the proposed works. A detailed inspection of the site reveals that in fact these trees are very stable posing no risk to the property. Rather they provide a good habitat for wildlife and also contribute towards soil stabilization and helps in reducing flood risk through the process of infiltration under the current climate change scenarios.

There is not reasonable justification to remove the trees.

7. AUTHORISED SIGNATURE

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8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Application for Tree Work from Mr. Murray McKay dated 9 January 2014.