

**PLANNING APPLICATION PA20/01368 – APPLICATION TO FELL A TREE  
SUBJECT TO A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER (TPO)**

This application was originally considered by Botus Parish Parish Council (BFPC) on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

The only information available to BFPC to consider at the time was via Cornwall Council's Planning Portal which consisted of three (3) documents all published on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020; the planning application, the tree survey and TPO application prepared by the applicant's commissioned consultant and an aerial view photograph of the tree's location.

BFPC submitted that if the applicant's consultant's report on the condition of the tree was accurate and the tree was dangerous then it may have been prudent to remove it.

BFPC therefore reluctantly supported the application with two conditions, one of the conditions being that before the tree was removed BFPC wanted to know the opinion of Cornwall Council's Forestry Officer.

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 BFPC were informed by Cornwall Council that a five day protocol had been invoked due to the information and report of Cornwall Council's Forestry Officer.

Firstly, BFPC note that the Forestry Officer visited the application site on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

BFPC submit that had the information been available during its deliberations, then BFPC would likely have declined to support the application and that the five day protocol would have been completely unnecessary.

BFPC note that several parts of the Forestry Officer's report is in conflict with the applicant's consultant.

The main differences noted by BFPC are the following:

- The proposed works lack clear and convincing justification and would have a significant, detrimental impact upon public visual amenity and I would recommend refusal.
- Images (submitted to case officer) from summer 2017 show a full and healthy crown. My recent assessment on site allowed clear identification of bud size, density and distribution indicative of a continued crown health.
- I would discourage any further poor practices that would negatively impact the tree such as unnecessary pruning or root area disturbance. I would encourage positive management of the surrounding soils and protection of the rooting environment with a focus on benefits to the tree.

- The reasons given for seeking to remove a tree in its entirety, a tree that is acknowledged to have a significant level of public amenity and which significantly contributes to the character and appearance of the conservation/local area, do not comprise clear and convincing evidence necessary to justify the felling of the subject tree.

BFPC agree with the Forestry Officer's recommendation and do not support the application.

David James Edwards

Chairman

Botus Fleming Parish Council