

	Tree Preservation Order
TPO No.	TPO 262/2019
Site Address	The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 6RA
Date Served	17 January 2019
Expiry Date	16 July 2019
Ward	Sunbury East
Executive Summary	Confirmation of TPO 262/2019
Recommended Decision	Confirm without modification

MAIN REPORT

1. Details of Order

- 1.1 On 17 January 2019 Tree Preservation Order 262/2019 was served with immediate effect to protect one Holm Oak on this site.

2. Background

- 2.1 The tree is located in the rear garden of The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Sunbury-on-Thames. It is within the Sunbury Conservation Area and has important amenity value to the wider area with the upper half of its crown being visible from Church Street and the whole crown from Thames Street.
- 2.2 A planning application (17/00760/HOU) for the 'erection of an outbuilding for garage and fitness use following demolition of existing garage' was approved on 15 November 2017. As part of this application an Arboricultural Report was received outlining the tree protection measures that would be put in place to protect the trees to be retained on site. The Council's Tree Officer was also consulted and involved from the pre-application stage as the proposed outbuilding was located beneath the Holm Oak tree. He was satisfied with the steps that were taken to protect this particular tree and the work has now been completed without any detrimental impact on the tree.
- 2.3 A notification for works to trees in a Conservation Area (18/01741/TCA) was subsequently received in December 2018 to 'reduce the limbs of the Holm Oak overhanging the newly erected building by 3 metres to relieve weight and overhang'.
- 2.4 Following receipt of this notification the Tree Officer re-assessed the tree and considered that despite the recent building work it was healthy, stable and in good

condition. He commented as follows: 'The large old holm oak appears healthy and stable and is showing no obvious sign of disease or decay. It has a spreading crown that has been propped in places but this is on the elongated heavy limb that extends over the garden to the west. The remaining branches extend out over the building but are not considered excessively heavy; some minor pruning was carried out in 2017 to reduce weight. The main concern now seems to be contact with the building due to branches moving in the wind; these potential problems were pointed out at the design stage and the Council were assured that this was not an issue and that the building had been designed with this in mind'.

- 2.5 It was therefore considered that having designed and implemented the building to retain the tree without the need for excessive pruning, it was entirely inappropriate for major pruning work to be proposed to avoid branches overhanging the building. For this reason a TPO was made so that any inappropriate pruning could be controlled in the future.
- 2.6 A TPO was therefore served, before the expiry of the 6 week notification period, to protect the Holm Oak because of its 'significant contribution to the visual amenities of the locality'.
- 2.7 The Council's response to the S211 notification was sent on 24 January 2019 advising the landowner that the Council had objected to the work and had accordingly made a TPO on 17 January 2019.

3. Third Party Representations

- 3.1 As required under the legislation all affected parties were served with copies of the Tree Preservation Order. No representations have been received, although one letter of objection was received regarding the notification for works application (18/01741/TCA).

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 Tree Preservation Order 262/2019 be confirmed without modification.