

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

Development Management Committee

Date 4th May 2016

**OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE PREPARATION OF THE MAIN
AGENDA**

ITEMS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

ITEM

Item No. 02 Application: No. 16/01112/LBA Address: Sunday Cottage

The listed building report 16/01112/LBA refers to Section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, but the property is not in a conservation area. This reference has been included in error.

Tree Preservation Order: Bath and North East Somerset Council (Bondene, 25 Highmead Gardens, Bishop Sutton No.4) Tree Preservation Order 2016

Further representations have been received from 6 local residents in support of the confirmation of the Tree Preservation Order. A summary of the reasons for supporting the Tree Preservation Order are listed below;

1. The trees are considered to provide a visual amenity for Bishop Sutton residents.
2. The trees provide a significant landmark and contribute towards the local landscape and character.
3. The trees contribute towards the health and well being of local residents who enjoy their visual contribution and the wildlife which they support. The trees are considered to provide a foraging route for bats from Chew Valley Lake to Burlledge Hill.
4. A decline in established trees within the village has been observed and concerns have been raised that the trees may be removed if the Tree Preservation Order is not made permanent and that this could facilitate a subsequent planning application.
5. The loss of the trees was one of the reasons provided by Sutton Stowey Parish Council for not supporting the withdrawn planning application.

Two households also wished for their responses, as provided, to be made available to Committee and these have been included as an appendix to this report.

Appendix

Tree Preservation Order: Bath and North East Somerset Council (Bondene, 25 Highmead Gardens, Bishop Sutton No.4) Tree Preservation Order 2016

Comments from Mr King:

My property overlooks the rear garden of 25 Highmead Gardens and since the return of the owner from France, I have noted that he has acquired a chain saw and tree shredder and has spent days removing many tree saplings and bushes within the property boundary. I feel sure that unless the order is made permanent, the included trees within the order will either be removed or butchered, with the intent of ensuring that no further protection order can be applied for in the future.

They represent a true amenity to the people of Bishop Sutton, a real bonus to wildlife in the Chew Valley and deserve to be preserved for villagers in the future.

Letter from Mr and Mrs Keel:

As requested, I am writing to notify BANES of my comments regards to the three mature trees (2 Beech, 1 Acer) at Bondene 25 Highmead Gardens, Bishop Sutton following the recent 6 month temporary Tree Preservation Order placed on these three mature trees by BANES. Due to a planning application recently submitted by the occupant, a Mr.Burke at Bondene, 25 Highmead Gardens and then withdrawn, these three trees would have been felled. I believe these very healthy mature trees have a high amenity value to the surrounding area within the village and are a major landmark to the surrounding properties also providing enjoyment to the local villagers.

I have also found evidence that these trees offer an important contribution to the environment, creating a varied, interesting and attractive landscape to the surrounding properties and the village community walking up Church lane also. The area where the trees exist is a well known flood risk and removal of these trees would create an even higher risk of flooding.

In our opinion the three trees help to define the character of the surrounding properties including our property (No.26) which is directly next door, creating an ambience and a sense of place in Church lane and also within Highmead Gardens. These three trees provide wildlife habitat and contribute to the general health and well being of people living close by.

We have witnessed the following wildlife living in the area of these trees over recent years

- Bats – during the summer months are very active here on an evening
- Badgers – during the winter months, they also visit our garden to feed during the winter
- Numerous species of wild birds
- Hedgehogs and slow worms

These three trees due to their high visibility provide an area of screening to all the local surrounding housing also. As stated, they are important to nature

conservation in the immediate area and removal would threaten this due to their high visibility and also impacting on future climate change.

For these reasons, the Tree Preservation Order that has been temporarily imposed to protect the three selected trees, if removed, is likely to have a significant impact on the local environment and its enjoyment by the public and villagers.

I sincerely hope this TPO becomes permanent due to the reasons I have detailed in this letter? Please note I also have aerial video footage I have recently taken supporting my reasoning within this letter.