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Mr & Mrs J Carden
81 The Village
Haxby
York
YO32 2JE

8th May 2010

Dear Mr and Mrs Carden

Birch Tree – 79 The Village, Haxby, York

I refer to our site meeting on the 4th May 2010 regarding the birch tree in your neighbour's garden. I understand that your neighbour submitted an application to York City Council to remove the tree as it is situated within a conservation area. The Council in effect refused that application by making the tree the subject of a Tree Preservation Order. The order was made on the 21st April 2010 and you are now seeking my views on the tree and whether a preservation order is justified.

The Birch Tree

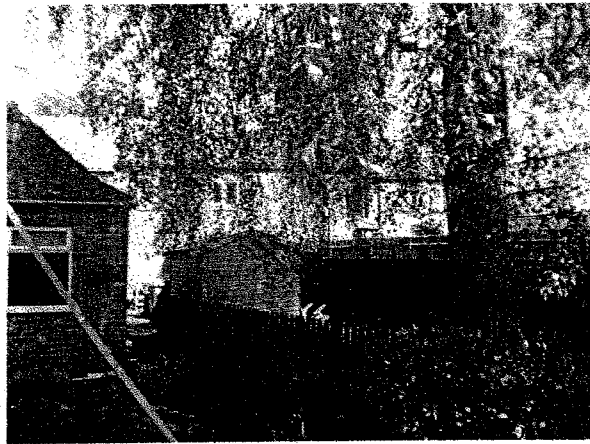


View from Sandyland Road to the south

From the main highway to the north the tree is partially obscured by housing so its impact from that direction is minimal. However, as the photograph above illustrates the tree does appear to be an attractive specimen when viewed from the south.

The tree does therefore appear to be of sufficient quality and amenity value to justify the protection of a Tree Preservation Order.

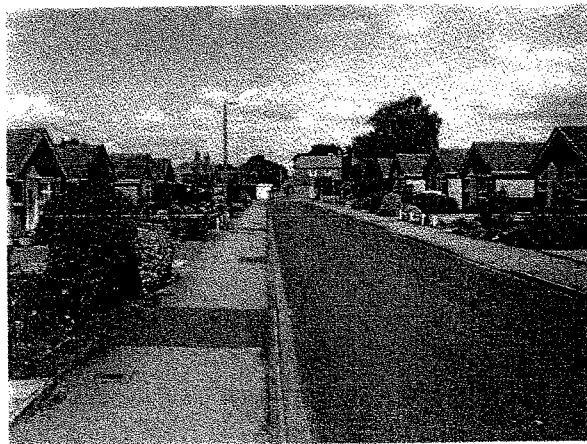
However, the tree is approximately 19m in height with an average crown spread of 6m radius. The gardens of the properties are only small and narrow which means the crown of the tree extends over 3 gardens. In respect of 79 The Village the crown of the tree covers over half the garden area and a good proportion of the garden of 81 The Village. The tree is also only 6m from the rear of the nearest property.



View from the garden of 81 The Village

The huge dimensions of the tree cause it to dominate the gardens and the rear aspects of the adjacent properties. Situated to the south of the properties the tree will also cause shading, especially the late afternoon and evening sun, to the properties to the east. So whilst the tree is an attractive specimen it does appear to be an unreasonable inconvenience to the adjacent properties to expect people to live with the tree in the long term.

The tree forms a relatively isolated specimen in an area devoid of any major trees. Indeed the lack of trees in the gardens to the south is noticeable as illustrated in the photograph below.



View from Sandylands

In conclusion the tree is without doubt an attractive specimen but it would appear too large a specimen to be comfortably accommodated within the relatively small gardens. It is also slightly ironic to protect a tree for the benefit of residents to the south when the majority of these properties have no trees.

I hope these comments are useful and please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S Feather". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the word "Feather".

Mark Feather BSc MArb(RFS) Tech Arbor A