

Original TPO email sent on 6th November 2020

Dear Member,

On the 18th August 2020, a member of the EPRA campaign team (Jennifer Moore) made a formal request to the Council to make a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) at the Three Sisters.

Although trees within the Ellesmere Park Conservation Area benefit from protection, the trees at the Three Sisters Nature Reserve / Site of Biological Importance do not, as they lie outside the conservation area.

On 20th October 2020, Salford City Council issued a TPO, and the order provides protection on a provisional basis until the Council decides whether or not to “confirm” the order. The Council is consulting on the TPO and the deadline for representations – i.e. objections or comments in support of the order – is Monday 23rd November 2020.

The Council has six months from 20th October to consider any comments made and to decide whether or not to confirm the order.

In view of the Covid-19 pandemic & restrictions, we have asked that the Council accept submissions by email rather than written letter and they have agreed to this.

Details of the TPO can be viewed on the following Council web page:

<https://www.salford.gov.uk/planning-building-and-regeneration/planning-applications/tree-preservation-orders/land-at-three-sisters-chatsworth-road-eccles/>

It is important to note that objections / supports should be framed in terms of the amenity value of the trees and not in terms of preventing any development. **We strongly advise NOT to mention anything about the plans United Utilities had, or may still have, about using the Three Sisters for a storage tank.**

Support for this TPO can be sent via email to planning.contact@salford.gov.uk quoting the Tree Preservation Order (No. 553) and these will be taken into account when deciding whether or not to confirm the order. We suggest that you put **Tree Preservation Order (No. 553) – Three Sisters, Eccles** as the subject of your email.

The closing date for receiving comments is Monday, 23rd November 2020.

We are urging all members to send an email to the Planning Department in support of this TPO . You will no doubt have your own views about these trees and why they should be protected.

Every comment received by the Council will help towards protecting the trees. We are relying on our members help us in securing the future of these trees with a preservation order.

It would be most helpful if you could send a copy of your email to EPRA (epra.eccles@gmail.com) so we can track the response to this consultation process.

You might find National Government guidance on TPOs helpful in making your comments. This can be viewed on line at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas>

We would draw your attention to the following extracts from this guidance to help you consider your comments :

“ 'Amenity' is not defined in law, so authorities need to exercise judgment when deciding whether it is within their powers to make an Order. Orders should be used to protect selected trees and woodlands if their removal would have a significant negative impact on the local environment and its enjoyment by the public. Before authorities make or confirm an Order they should be able to show that protection would bring a reasonable degree of public benefit in the present or future.”

Visibility - The extent to which the trees or woodlands can be seen by the public will inform the authority's assessment of whether the impact on the local environment is significant. The trees, or at least part of them, should normally be visible from a public place, such as a road or footpath, or accessible by the public.

Individual, collective and wider impact - Public visibility alone will not be sufficient to warrant an Order. The authority is advised to also assess the particular importance of an individual tree, of groups of trees or of woodlands by reference to its or their characteristics including:

- *size and form;*
- *future potential as an amenity;*
- *rarity, cultural or historic value;*
- *contribution to, and relationship with, the landscape; and*
- *contribution to the character or appearance of a conservation area.*

Other factors - Where relevant to an assessment of the amenity value of trees or woodlands, authorities may consider taking into account other factors, such as importance to nature conservation or response to climate change. These factors alone would not warrant making an Order.”

Here are some reasons why we believe the trees should be protected:

- *they are an important amenity for residents of Salford – enjoyed both locally and further afield;*
- *visually, they are an impressive group of trees and are visible from a considerable distance from the site;*
- *some individual specimens are of high amenity value themselves and should be protected;*
- *some of the common oaks provide amenity as climbing frame opportunities*
- *this site is the main entrance into the Three Sisters and these established trees form an important gateway into the Nature Reserve;*

- *these established trees, including self-seeded, are native to the area and should therefore be protected;*
- *the established trees and self-seeded trees provide a natural informal character highly valued by the local community as opposed to more formal open spaces.*
- *the site provides a wildlife habitat for a variety of species, including protected and other species which would benefit from the protection of a TPO which will in turn help to ensure the protection and enhancement of the current and future wildlife populations ;*
- *the site provides a significant amount of tree cover which contributes to mitigation against climate change, especially as part of Salford and Greater Manchester, and this needs to be protected for future generations.*

We do hope you can give your support for this Tree Preservation Order by sending comments to the Planning Department using the email address:

planning.contact@salford.gov.uk quoting the Tree Preservation Order (No. 553).

EPRA Committee