

We need your help !

Posted by Newsline - 18 Aug 2019 12:18

ERC planners have made an application to ERC Planning Application Committee (PAC) to permit the removal and destruction of 12 trees Adjacent To Crookfur Pavilion Crookfur Park Ayr Road Newton Mearns.

This is the site where the council is having a new nursery built. It is in early stages of being built and now the planners are alleging that a digger has damaged the roots of 12 trees, and as a result they require to remove them due to Health & Safety reasons.

The 12 trees are all subject of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

Council make these orders - They are made to protect individual trees, groups of trees or woodlands which have particular amenity value, make a significant contribution to the landscape or townscape or because there may be a potential threat to the trees. Deciding which trees qualify to become protected the local authority must ensure that the trees contribute to the amenity and attractiveness of an area and be under threat in some way. Either individual specimens or groups can be protected in a single Order.

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Re: We need your help !

Posted by RM64 - 29 Aug 2019 11:58

29/08/2019

Posted Save Shawwood Greenspace Webpage -

16 hrs

From: McDaid, Sean

Sent: 28 August 2019 12:08

To: Macdonald, D (Cllr)

Subject: Felling of trees in Crookfur Park.

Councillor,

A treeworks application (2019/0487/TPO) has been submitted to remove 12 trees and an Arboricultural Impact Assessment accompanies this application. The application is available to view on the Council's website at the following link [ercbuildingstandards.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/ .../appl...](http://ercbuildingstandards.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/.../appl...)

The trees that are subject to the treeworks application are covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and this TPO covers a much larger area. The trees that are the subject of this application are in a grouping containing approximately 60 individual trees.

The reason for the application is that ground clearance and construction works on the adjacent site resulted in damage to the roots system of number of trees. This damage is likely to cause stability issues, raising safety concerns. These concerns are not just for the construction period but also for the future users of the new family centre and the new replacement play area.

It should be noted that a treeworks application can be approved with conditions requiring replacement trees to be planted, if this is considered appropriate.

I hope this assists.

Sean Mc Daid

Principal Planner

East Renfrewshire Council

Link to documents -

ercbuildingstandards.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/...keyVal=PW49B3GP08600

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Re: We need your help !

Posted by Newsline - 29 Aug 2019 12:25

From: McDaid, Sean

Sent: 28 August 2019 12:08

To: Macdonald, D (Cllr)

Subject: Felling of trees in Crookfur Park.

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It should be noted that a treeworks application can be approved with conditions requiring replacement trees to be planted, if this is considered appropriate.

I hope this assists.

Sean Mc Daid

Principal Planner

East Renfrewshire Council

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Re: We need your help !

Posted by Newsline - 29 Aug 2019 12:28

- There is no evidence in the report that supports the premise that damage has been caused to the roots system of a number of trees.

- There are no concerns raised in the report with regards to stability issues.

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Re: We need your help !

Posted by RM64 - 15 Oct 2019 09:29

Is there an update?

What is the current situation?

Have the trees been removed?

Will they be removed?

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Re: We need your help !

Posted by Ernhw Ltd - 15 Oct 2019 15:27

Communication in from ERC

Further to our recent phone conversation I asked my colleague to take a second look at the trees and consider if was feasible to retain them.

We then sat down and looked at the information at hand and carried out a risk assessment which considered the following:

- The recent Arboriculturist detailed tree report
- Planning approval and conditions
- Health and safety of children and visitors to the park once the new nursery and sports facility is completed
- The proximity of public park area to the trees
- A site visit to review height of trees and topography of the site in relation to new road access and building

We considered the above items and after much consideration concluded that the Council would be leaving itself open to quite a significant risk if we were to leave root damaged trees.

Our main consideration must be for the health and safety of children and visitors in the immediate vicinity and we cannot risk a tree falling when we know the roots have been damaged.

For H&S reasons we have therefore concluded that we require to remove the 12 root damaged trees before the winter and heavy winds start.

I know you will be very disappointed with this conclusion but I hope you understand that we must consider the safety of park visitors at all times.

We will of course replace lost trees with a new species of tree that work well as a group and that attract insects and birds.

Proposed replacement trees

New tree planting proposals to provide a more appropriate group of trees which in the longer term will have higher amenity and biological value than the existing plantation trees.

Larch is proposed to be replaced by native *Acer campestre* and *Prunus avium*.

The field maple (*Acer campestre*) is a broadleaf with a compact habit, tolerant of pollution with rich

autumn colours. Acer campestre is the UK's only native maple and supports caterpillars, aphids, and is consequently a major source of food for birds during summer.

Wild cherry (Prunus avium) is a native broadleaf with spring flowers which provide an early source of nectar and pollen for bees; and the autumn cherries are a source of food for birds and mammals. The foliage is the main food plant for caterpillars of many species of moth, including the cherry fruit and cherry bark moths, the orchard ermine, brimstone and short-cloaked moth.

Together these two species provide high amenity value and biological value during spring, summer and autumn.

Recommendations

4 Heavy Standard Trees are recommended at 12-14m Acer campestre (Field Maple) and 4 selected standard 10 - 12cm Standard, Prunus avium (Wild Cherry).

8 trees in total occupy the available space and allow the trees to develop properly into maturity.

I do hope the above proposal offers some small level of comfort that the Council is trying to mitigate the unfortunate situation with the trees.

I want to thank you for sharing your concerns.

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Re: We need your help !

Posted by ErnHW Ltd - 15 Oct 2019 15:30

It is disappointing that the review relied on the original Arboriculturist report, which is now described as a 'detailed tree report'.

In our opinion the original report is very flawed and required clarification on many matters. 12 Trees (subject to TPO's) and one other healthy tree and one dead tree will be replaced by only 8.

The question now must be, who is going to pay for all of this work which will run into many thousands of pounds.

The council (aka the taxpayer) or Heron Brothers, builders. ?

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