

**Ward** – Moel Fammau

**Ward Member(s)** – Cllr Huw Williams

**Application Number** – N/a

**Proposal** – Confirmation of provisional Tree Preservation Order (TPO) No. 4 (2024)

**Location** - Land between The Rectory and Brackendene, Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd

## **1. Purpose of Report**

1.1. To inform Members of the Planning Committee that the Council have received an objection to a proposed Tree Preservation Order (TPO) No. 4 (2024) on Land between The Rectory and Brackendene, Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd made on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2024; and to recommend confirmation of the TPO. The TPO affords protection to a single European Larch (*Larix decidua*) (T1).

## **2. Report**

2.1. The Council's Tree Officer has carried out an assessment of the tree and submitted a request that the European Larch (*Larix decidua*) (T1) be covered by a TPO as the tree meets the relevant criteria and warrants protection. The Tree Officer Inspection Notes - a Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders (TEMPO) confirms that the tree has habitat importance and is in immediate threat from development.

2.2. The Council's Tree Officer considers that the value of the tree contributes to the character of the area which warrants it being protected. By placing a TPO on the tree it highlights to all interested parties that it is protected and affords greater control over the tree in the future.

2.3. Following service of the TPO the Council received an objection from Tad Huw, local resident and Mission Area Leader of Dyffryn Clwyd. The objection sets out the following concerns: -

- *Question the necessity of the TPO. The housing development includes safety improvements for the village, namely bringing the footpath inside the wall and away from the busy trunk road. The developer has worked with the Church to ensure the path links into the churchyard connecting to the existing path network. This path would pass directly beneath the western larch which contains quite a lot of dead wood which needs pruning and a large patch previous storm damage two-thirds of the way up the trunk.*
- *Suggest that before there is a TPO a thorough inspection of the tree is carried out to check its current stability as there is often branches down after high winds which land on my hedge. Added to this there are several drooping branches which reach the ground which would require pruning to allow the path to go ahead, a path which we have been looking forward to and is part of the long term sustainability plan for the Church which is a significant cultural heritage asset for the village. Far from having a TPO placed on the tree I believe there is a case for felling it for safety reasons and at the very least it requires pruning with removal of deadwood and the drooping branches that nearly reach the ground.*
- *There are a good number of mature native trees surrounding it, especially in the churchyard, which is specially managed for biodiversity having recently received the 1st Gold Eco-Church Award in Wales, that form better habitat for wildlife than a western larch.*

2.4. It is understood the Council's Tree Officer met with the objector following receipt of the comments above. It was explained that the TPO would not hinder/halt development of the new footway however concerns remained that the tree needs work/is unsafe in that location, directly adjacent to the proposed footway.

The Tree Officer has been unable to make contact with the developer regarding the tree.

Officers are still of the opinion that a TPO is necessary as it provides better protection and/or replacement powers as the development progresses.

### **3. Conclusion**

3.1. Notwithstanding the objection it is recommended that the TPO is confirmed in accordance with the Council's Tree Officer recommendation.

### **4. Recommendation**

4.1. TPO No. 4 (2024) Land between The Rectory and Brackendene, Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd is confirmed without modification to afford the single European Larch (*Larix decidua*) (T1) continued protection.

#### **Background documents**

Tree Preservation Order No. 4 (2024) Land between The Rectory and Brackendene, Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd

Tree Officers inspection notes (TEMPO) dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2024

Objection from Tad Huw, local resident and Mission Area Leader of Dyffryn Clwyd.