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# Report

**Report subject** : Tree Preservation Order 379, La Retraite School, Salisbury  
**Report to** : City Area Committee  
**Date** : Thursday 12 October 2006  
**Author** : Shane Verrion

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## Purpose of Report:

This item is before Members to consider TPO379 which has been the subject of an objection.

## Background:

TPO379 was made on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2006 after a Horse Chestnut was felled in the grounds of the School.

A member of the public advised the planning department that the tree was to be felled. Unfortunately, the tree was removed before the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) could be put in place. The tree was not protected so the School did not act inappropriately but other trees in the vicinity could now also be deemed to be under threat.

Staff at the school have advised the council the Horse Chestnut was considered to be dying and dangerous. However, the Planning Officer who inspected the tree before it was felled, did not feel that it showed signs of ill health.

The TPO covers a group of trees on the southern boundary between the school and Campbell Road. The trees are situated on a raised bank adjacent to the street.

## Objections:

La Retriate Swan School have raised an objection because they feel the TPO will be a burden from an administrative point of view. They are concerned that they will need to apply for permission to maintain the trees, and to carry out urgent works to prevent a danger to the public.



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**Comments on objection:**

If any of the trees within the group require any work, a simple two page form can be submitted (without a charge) and the application will be considered within 6 weeks.

Dead, dying and dangerous trees are exempt, and owners are permitted to carry out urgent works to prevent damage to a third party.

**Conclusion:**

The trees covered by the Tree Preservation Order include 5 Lime, 4 Sycamore, 6 Beech and 1 Horse Chestnut. Individually, the trees would not necessarily warrant a TPO but as a group they screen the buildings on the sky line. They also have high amenity value because they are situated in a built up area on the outskirts of the city.

Some of the trees are in a relatively poor condition and will require remedial work or removal. Two Beech trees have already been removed under the dead, dying and dangerous exemption because their crowns showed signs of dieback and decay fungus appeared at the base.

As the trees were obviously in a state of decline, and were situated close to the School entrance it was felt that no chances should be taken and they were removed.

A few of the other trees in the group are also showing signs of decay. A survey is currently being undertaken, by the school, to determine their condition. If necessary, further felling can be considered as part of a future application.

**Options for consideration:**

Members should decide whether to confirm the order to make it permanent.

Members therefore have the following options:

- a) **Confirm Tree Preservation order 379**
- b) **Not confirm Tree Preservation order 379**

**Costs:** None

**Recommendations:**

That Tree Preservation Order 379 should be confirmed so the trees remain protected and the council maintain control over any future felling, if it is deemed necessary.

**Background Papers:**

None

**Other Representations:**

1 objection received – see report.

**Implications:**

- Financial** : None
- Legal** : None
- Personnel** : None
- Community Safety** : In Report
- Wards Affected** : St Mark and Stratford