

Tree Conservation and Preservation Orders
Supporting Paper and Proposed Action Item for Drinkstone
Parish Council Meeting 2nd Sept 2019

The Drinkstone Draft Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has identified both the visual and biodiversity value of veteran and other significant trees in and around the two main settlements areas. These trees convey a strong sense of place and form a key component of the character of these two areas.

The household questionnaire carried out in October and November 2018 revealed very wide support for the conservation of the village's rural character and the natural features of the village landscape such as trees. (paras 3.11 and 3.13 of the Draft NP)

Policy DR1 – Spatial Strategy sets out how the Neighbourhood Plan area will accommodate development commensurate with Drinkstone's designation as a Countryside Village in the adopted Mid Suffolk Core Strategy and the designation as a Hamlet in the emerging Joint Local Plan. The focus for new development will be within the Settlement Boundaries of Drinkstone and Drinkstone Green (as defined on the Policies Map).

Development within these areas is already having a direct and indirect impact on mature trees. Recent requests by the Parish Council to Mid Suffolk to serve Tree Preservation Orders on threatened mature trees of high amenity value have been refused. Consequently the Draft Neighbourhood Plan includes the following proposal:

“Community Action 2. The Parish Council will seek the serving and confirmation of Tree Preservation Orders on trees that are of high amenity value and threatened, either directly or indirectly, by development.”

Action:

The Parish Council is requested to:

1. Agree and pursue Community Action 2 of the Draft Drinkstone Neighbourhood Plan.
2. Seek the support of District Councillor Penny Otton, and Cassandra Clements, Assistant Director for Environment and Commercial Partnerships, in the serving of Tree Preservation Orders on trees that are of high amenity value and threatened either directly or indirectly by development.

Author: Peter Holborn, Parish Councillor and Parish Tree Warden

20th August 2019