

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
8 DECEMBER 2021	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Fiona McMillan, Director of Law and Governance	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene, and the Environment	
Contact Officer(s):	Pippa Turvey, Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager	Tel. 452460

PETITION FOR DEBATE ‘SAVE BRETTON OAK TREE’

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: <i>Director of Law and Governance</i>	Deadline date: <i>N/A</i>
<p>It is recommended that Council either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note and take no action for the reasons put forward in the debate; or 2. Refer the petition to either Cabinet, a Cabinet Member, or the relevant Scrutiny Committee for consideration having regard to the comments made in the course of debate. 	

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 A petition has been received by the Council with contains more than 500 valid signatures from people who live, work or study in the city. As such, the right to a debate of the petition by a meeting of the full Council has been triggered, according to the Petitions Scheme.

2. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 As set out in the Council's Petitions Scheme, if a petition contains more than 500 signatures from people who live, work or study in the city, it may trigger the right to be debated by a meeting of the full Council.
- 2.2 On 30 November 2021 a petition was received by the Council from John Hopkins, which included 920 signatures. Following a verification process, the petition was confirmed to include over 500 eligible signatures.
- 2.3 Mr Hopkins requested that the petition be debated at a meeting of Full Council, as per the Petitions Scheme.
- 2.4 The petition is titles ‘Save Bretton Oak Tree’ and called upon the Council to:

“To retain the Oak Tree on Blind Lane, Ringwood, Peterborough. 20/00652/TRE | TPO 06/00004 T.1 Oak (TPO T.9) - Fell and T.2 Oak (TPO T.8) - Fell, as amended.”

Further background to the petition included:

“One of the last standing Oak Trees from the original Grimeshaw Woods (14th century). Peterborough City Council want to fell as there is potential damage to nearby properties. Houses should have never been built due to the close location of the tree. The tree has caused no damage to drains or services.

As stated in the Insurance Company (PRI) report. Cost of repair £28,000 - £75,000 if the tree to remain. This tree has an approx. CAVAT value of over £300,000.”

3. IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial, legal, equalities, or Carbon Impact implications arising from this report.
- 3.2 Governance Implications – This report will be debated following the presentation of the petition. The Leader Petitioner has five minutes to present this petition. Members will then be invited to debate the request contain therein. The usual rules of procedure will apply to this debate. Each Member may speak once for no longer than 3 minutes. A Member may not speak again, except on a point of order, by way of a personal explanation, or by way of a statement of accuracy. The Mayor will invite a vote on the recommendations at the close of the debate.

4. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 4.1 Peterborough City Council Petitions Scheme

5. APPENDICES

- 5.1 Appendix A – Officer Response