

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 6
10 JUNE 2010	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

Contact Officer – Louise Tyers, Scrutiny Manager

Contact Details – (01733) 452284 or email louise.tyers@peterborough.gov.uk

TREE POLLARDING

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of an item which has been referred by Councillor Sandford on Tree Pollarding.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To consider the referral from Councillor Sandford and to decide if, and how, to take the issue forward.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Councillor Sandford has requested that this item is placed on the agenda for this meeting.

- 3.2 Councillor Sandford has advised:

"Pollarding was massively controversial in the past but following discussion by committees and at Cabinet it was agreed that the pollarding would be done every four years but that the work would be completed by 28 February each year to avoid the bird nesting season and the period when the trees are actively growing in the spring.

I was therefore shocked to learn that pollarding has been going on during the spring this year.

I wish to complain about this on two grounds:

1. It is against the agreed policy of the Council. To overturn the decision made a few years ago would require a Cabinet Member decision and the work is unconstitutional as no such decision has been made.
2. In my ward an, albeit limited, amount of pollarding has been carried out in Sages Lane which is contrary to the Council's Trees and Woodland Policy in that myself or Cllr Shaheed as ward councillors have not been consulted about it.

I would request that this programme be stopped immediately pending discussion by the relevant scrutiny committee. I hereby require that the matter be placed on the agenda of the first meeting of the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee in the current year and am advising the Chief Executive accordingly, in accordance with the Council Constitution."

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider if, and how, it wishes to take this issue forward.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

5.1 None