

**Subject:**

RE: T1-Lime situated in front garden of 101 Pennine Road, Millbrook.

Dear Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]

Many thanks for taking time to contact the City Council tree team in relation to the new Tree Preservation Order (TPO) placed on the Lime tree at the front of 101 Pennine Road. I hope that this email will explain the rationale behind the making of the order and to answer the points that you have raised.

The property is subject to a deed of covenant, whereby any felling, lopping or topping of the tree must be agreed by the Council prior to being carried out.

Our records show that permission was obtained under this deed of covenant to reduce the crown to previous cuts in 2018. However further work was carried out early 2021 without the consent of the council. A tree officer inspected this work and found that the tree surgeon had pruned beyond the previous cuts. This is potentially damaging to the tree as it removes the wood where the tree stores a large volume of energy, which it needs to defend itself from the wounds made by the cuts and to re grow leaves.

The council has a green city charter and is keen to retain healthy trees across the city for the benefits that they provide. As this tree is the only prominent tree in the immediate area its importance is even more significant.

Trees help keep properties warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. Areas that have trees also tend to have higher value of property as people prefer to live in a leafier area rather than an area void of trees. Studies have shown that people living in proximity to trees live a healthier life. Buildings are often softened by the presence of trees and remove the stark outline of a large building; therefore, they are generally welcomed in the environment as they have many benefits.

Occasionally trees do cause a disservice as outlined in your objection, from their sap, the natural shedding of small branches, leaf fall into gutters and roads. These issues that you raised are all valid points but can be dealt with by routine household maintenance and in the case of a build-up of leaves on highways by the council's street cleansing programme. It is the council's opinion that the negative aspects which are only seasonal, mentioned in your objection are outweighed by the positive benefits that trees provide.

The presence of a Tree Preservation Order does not mean that no work can be carried out to the tree. Only that consent must be obtained prior to the work being carried out. This is similar to the current situation but makes the status clearer to ensure the long-term retention of this tree for future generations. The council has agreed tree work before and would be supportive of reasonable works in the future.

Currently the tree preservation order is temporary and cannot be made permanent (Confirmed) if there are objections to the making of the order, therefore if you are not satisfied with my response and wish to uphold your objection, then the matter must be presented to a panel of elected member at the Planning & Rights of Way panel.

This is a publicly held meeting in which your objection would be presented along with my report that details the reasoning behind the making of the TPO along with my responses to objections

received. You will be invited to this meeting and will be given an allotted time to put your objection to the members of the panel. Once all representation has been heard, the member will vote on whether or not the council should confirm the order.

Please can you respond to me in relation to how you wish to proceed with this objection. If you are happy with my response, you can withdraw your objection, however if you wish to take the objection to the Planning and Rights of Way panel, then please state that you wish to uphold your objection. If no response is received, then this is taken as an upholding of objection.

If the objection is upheld, then I will start the process of writing my report, which you would receive a copy of along with the date of the meeting. This must be within 6 months of making of the order, therefore could be around September – December.

If you have any questions regarding my response of wish to discuss any further points, please do not hesitate to contact me. My mobile number [REDACTED]

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

City Tree Officer  
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