

# MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

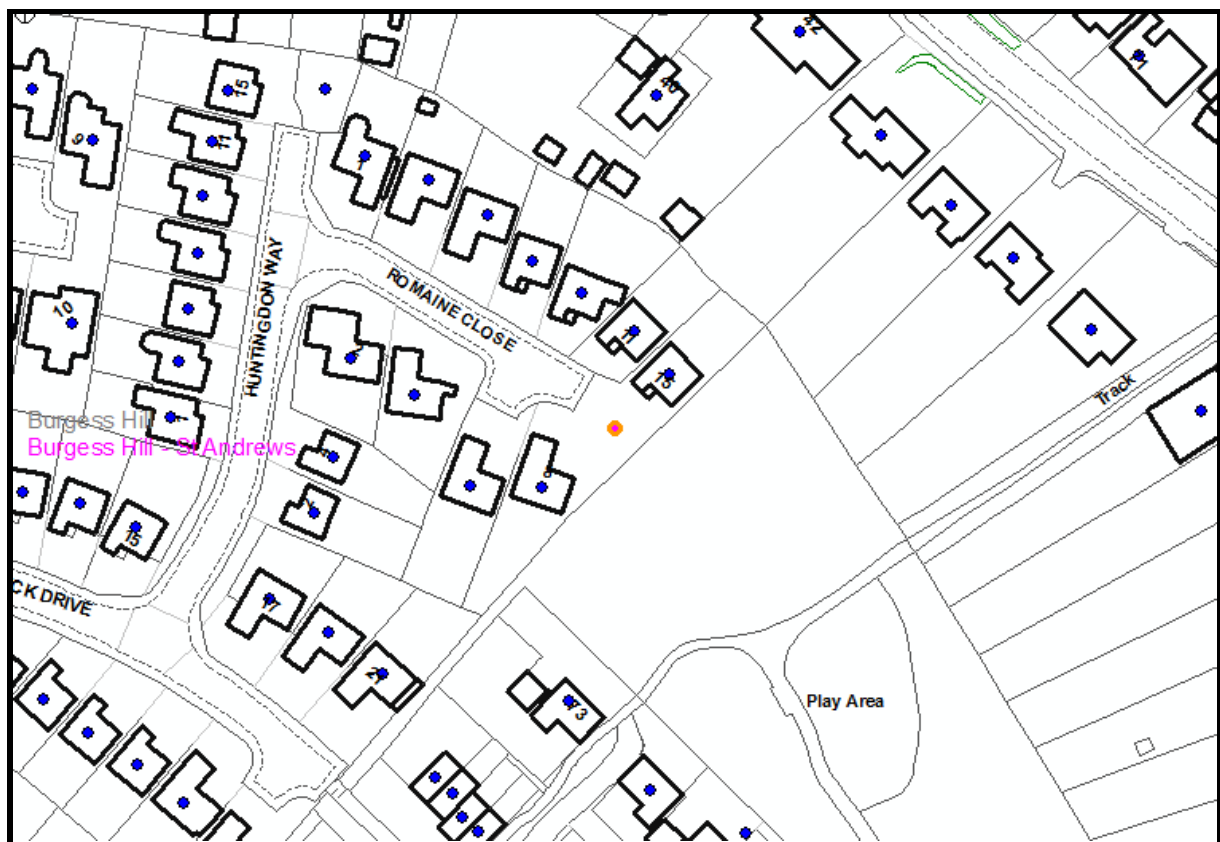
Planning Committee A

**11 APR 2019**

OTHER MATTERS

## **Burgess Hill**

**TP/18/0008**



**15 Romaine Close Burgess Hill West Sussex  
Mid Sussex District (No.8) Tree Preservation Order 2018**

## **REPORT**

Members are being requested to consider whether or not to confirm a new Tree Preservation Order (TPO), TP/18/0008 refers, for an Order covering one silver birch located within the garden of 15 Romaine Close at the end of the cul-de-sac.

The tree is a semi mature specimen and grows in an elevated position, making it highly prominent and visible from the public realm. It softens the urban character and uniformity of the area.

## **BACKGROUND**

The tree was considered to be under threat as it was protected by planning condition (condition 3 BH/117/75) and a request was received to fell the tree. Following a visit by the tree officer, it was considered that it merited protection.

The tree scored 17 (out of 25) on the TEMPO assessment and this indicates that an Order is appropriate.

## **THE OBJECTION**

An objection has been submitted on behalf of the owners of the tree. The grounds of objection may be summarised as follows:

- the owners consider that having a healthy young tree will have greater value than a diseased old one; the intention was to replant with a new tree
- the TPO is unnecessary
- the tree has been dropping its leaves early and the owners have been told that it is diseased
- shocked that TPO has been placed on tree and this was not discussed with owners' the council did not seek owners' point of view

## **ASSESSMENT**

Having regard to the owners comments, prior to the Order being served your officer superficially inspected the tree and it appeared to be healthy. In completing this report it has been revisited and it still appears to be healthy.

It should be noted that it would not be normal practice to discuss the making of an Order with a tree owner prior to making it, as this may led to the loss of the tree.

While it is noted that the owner wishes to replant, a mature tree contributes to the character of an area in a way that a young tree cannot and a new tree would not be protected by planning condition. The area is not well treed and it is considered that the tree makes a positive contribution to its environment.

It is considered that the tree has significant public amenity value and that it was expedient to issue an Order in accordance with government advice.

Officers are content that the tree meets the relevant criteria for inclusion in the Order and that their protection is justified, and it is considered that the Order should be confirmed.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Order is confirmed.