

From: Rosemary Armstrong

Sent: 18 March 2025 14:27

To: Planning Mail (CDC) <planning@cotswold.gov.uk>

Subject: TPO 25/00001 Corner Cottage Church Westcote

For the attention of the Tree Officer,

I am writing with regard to the Corsican pine TPO 25/00001. This tree stands tall and exposed making it vulnerable and at risk of falling given the frequent high winds experienced here on the escarpment. It does not appear healthy as it is unbalanced and has very few, and dead, branches on one side. If this tree were to fall, given its position in the village, it would cause damage to several properties and the surrounding area. I am also aware of the high level of anxiety this tree is now causing the property owner as she fears for her own safety. I believe, therefore, permission to fell it should be granted.

Regards

Rosemary Armstrong

From: Stephen Blake

Sent: 17 March 2025 15:14

To: Planning Mail (CDC) <planning@cotswold.gov.uk>

Subject: Cotswold District Council Tree Preservation Order TPO 25/00001 - objection

Dear Sirs

I have concerns regarding the recent imposition of a TPO on two trees at Corner Cottage, Church Westcote OX76SE. I write as a neighbour and local clergyman.

1. The Corsican Pine is causing anxiety to both Mrs Lewis, the property owner, and to her neighbours because of its apparent instability during recent stormy weather. An adjacent tree at the same property was felled by winds in the last few years and I understand the Corsican Pine moves alarmingly during high winds, such that the home owner has to move bedrooms for fear it may fall. I'm not sure the Tree Officer was aware of this concern when he visited as the owner was away when he called.

2. The multi-stemmed cypress, far from being an amenity, is to my mind an eye sore; an unattractive and ungainly tree that does nothing to enhance the beauty of the village.

I trust this order can be revoked giving Mrs Lewis, who is a keen gardener, the opportunity to replace these trees with something more suitable and attractive in the longer term.

Yours sincerely

Rev'd Dr Stephen Blake
2 Burtons Bank
Church Westcote
Chipping Norton OX7 6SE

From: Angela Dix

Sent: 15 March 2025 13:01

To: Planning Mail (CDC)

Subject: TPO

To whom it may concern.

Re Planning Application to fell a tree at Corner Cottage, Church Westcote, OX7 6SH.

The tree in question is approximately 60 feet high and leans. It could very easily fall especially in high winds damaging properties and injuring (or worse) any number of people, from a health and safety point of view it is a danger. Also it is very close to the owner's property. It already has several dead branches and is NOT a nesting site for birds. It needs to be removed as it serves NO useful purpose at all.

Angela Dix,6, The Covent, Church Westcote.

From: Roland Hodson

Sent: 15 March 2025 22:23

To: James Tyson <James.Tyson@cotswold.gov.uk>; planning@cotswold.gov.uk

Subject: Re: FW: TPO 25/00001/IND Corner Cottage, Church Westcote

Dear Mr Tyson, Tree Officer

With reference to the TPO order at Corner Cottage in Church Westcote, I refer you to the photo on Google Street View of Corner Cottage. You will see that the tree in question is leaning significantly to one side and is an obvious risk to the near by house. Our village is high on a ridge and during the last major windstorm a number of trees were blown down, blocking our lane for some days and threatening our electricity supply.

I kindly request that you reconsider the TPO and allow this tree to be cut for the sake of the safety of the residents of Corner Cottage.

Roland Hodson
1 Hawkwell Cottages
Church Westcote
OX7 6SW

Lewis Forestry
1, Battledown Approach
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL52 6QZ

4 April 2025

Dear Sirs

**Cotswold District Council Tree Preservation Order TPO 25/00001 Corner
Cottage, Church Westcote, Gloucestershire
Objection to the new proposed Tree Preservation Order**

I write as a forestry/ arboricultural adviser and son of Mary Lewis, the owner of Corner Cottage, Church Westcote, who you served with a new Tree Preservation Order as of 11 March 2025.

In my capacity as a professional forestry and arboricultural adviser, I am writing to object to this new Tree Preservation Order. By way of background, I am a qualified Chartered Forester and Chartered Surveyor with over 30 years' experience in the forestry sector. I currently advise a range of woodland and landowners on the management of their trees and woodlands and this advice includes tree safety management.

I am objecting to this new Tree Preservation Order on the following grounds: -

1 The trees public amenity value.

The tree is non-native and is a relatively poor specimen. Not only does it have a noticeable lean, but the distribution of its branches is unbalanced (as was clearly shown in the photographs included with Application for Tree works - trees in conservation areas submitted in January 2025). Furthermore, there are a number of dead branches within the tree (some of which are also evident in the above-mentioned photographs) and the foliage/ needle cover is also relatively sparse, further detracting from the appearance of the tree. I would also argue that the tree's size and height is now out of proportion to its setting- this pine tree now towers above my mother's house (and the other nearby houses), as well as the surrounding trees. Finally while I appreciate that beauty lies within the eyes of the beholder, based on the conversations that my mother has had with many of her neighbours, these people do not seem to share the tree officers view of the public amenity that this tree confers to the surrounding area - they too also believe that its distinctive lean and lopsided distribution of branches does not make this tree an attractive feature and one worth preserving. Furthermore, my mother's garden contains a number of other trees and shrubs - these are in good health and add to the amenity of garden and surrounding area.

2 The future safety of the tree

As set out in the above-mentioned application, the primary driver for wanting to have permission to be able to fell this tree and in turn for objecting to the new TPO, is future health and safety. There has been a noticeable decline in the health of this tree over the last 5 years. An increasing number of dead and dying branches is evident and the foliage (ie the needles) have become more sparse. Added to that is the lean of the tree and the unbalanced distribution of the tree's branches. Furthermore, due to the height of the tree and the fact that it stands above the surrounding trees and that Corner Cottage is located in a relatively elevated and exposed location (sitting near the top of a ridge), further increases the chances

of future wind blow - indeed some nearby poplars (on another property), blew over in the December 2024 storms. This risk coupled with its size (both height and weight), together with its proximity to Corner Cottage (which is the direction that the tree is most likely to fall, owing to its lean and branching distribution), further increases the overall risk. This tree is also within falling distance of the public highway and there is also an electricity wire within the immediate vicinity of this tree. Whilst it is difficult/ impossible to quantify the exact likelihood of this risk (or any tree blowing over), within the next 10 years, I would argue in my capacity as a professional advisor on such matters, that this tree would be considered to be at least "moderate risk" and that action should be taken to reduce or remove this risk. I do not believe it is feasible or desirable to prune this tree and/ or reduce its height or crown (as such action would make it look even more unsightly), so hence we applied for consent to be able to fell this tree.

As a concluding remark, I was surprised at the tree officer's refusal to grant consent to fell this pine tree, and even more surprised at being served with a TPO. I have submitted many applications for works to trees in conservation areas over the years within a range of district authorities, including an application to fell a Corsican pine in similar/better health and posing no more of a future safety risk, in Church Westcote just under 10 years ago - this application was duly granted. Furthermore, my mother, as she will testify in her objection, is passionate about trees and plants (and indeed inspired me to get involved in the forestry sector) and so would only elect to fell trees where they pose a potential threat/damage to people or property. I thus very much hope that the committee will reconsider this TPO and also be minded to grant consent for this tree to be felled.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

David Lewis MPhil, MRICS, MICFor, FAAV
Land Management and Forestry Consultant,
Tel 07801 562069

From: Mary Lewis
Sent: 01 April 2025 14:18
To: Planning Mail (CDC)
Subject: New Tree Preservation Order

Dear Sir,

Re: New Tree Preservation Order - TPO 25/0000/1 - Corner Cottage, Church Westcote.

Gloucestershire

I am disappointed and upset that you have seen fit to place a Tree Preservation Order on my Corsican pine tree. I am passionate about the environment and have been a Cotswold warden helping to protect and maintain the countryside for nearly twenty years.

There is no way that I would want this pine tree cut down if it wasn't for the fact that it is potentially dangerous. This tree is too close to the house and is also extremely tall.

In addition, the tree has developed a lean. Church Westcote is on a ridge and trees can be very vulnerable during high winds of which we get many more these days. Very recently four tall poplars very near me came down in the last storm. The tree is old and has many dead branches and sways alarmingly in strong winds. In fact, I am so concerned about this tree that I am forced to sleep at the other end of the house when the wind blows fiercely. I should not have to have this anxiety each time there is a storm warning.

Also, I wonder whether you would take responsibility for severe damage to the property, or even worse, injury or loss of life if the tree fell?

I implore you to reconsider your decision as my neighbours are also concerned about the safety of this tree.

Yours sincerely

Mary Lewis

From: Charles Ward
Sent: 17 March 2025 11:20
To: Planning Mail (CDC) <planning@cotswold.gov.uk>
Subject: TPO 25/0001

To the Planning Officer.

Dear Sir or Madam.

I would like to comment on the recent TPO that has been made for Corner Cottage, Church Westcote, Chipping Norton OX7 6SH.

The tree referred to in this order is a "Corsican Pine", (*Pinus nigra* subsp. *laricio*) which is not native to England or the UK.

This tree presents a clear and present danger to the cottage, and the public.

It is old, damaged, and clearly not stable - it has a 'lean' to it.

This tree needs to be urgently removed.

I hope that this comment may be of assistance to you.

Yours,

Charles Ward.
Middlemarch,
Church Westcote,
OX7 6SF