

The Tree Officer
Cotswold District Council
Cirencester
GL7 1PX

7 Jacobs Piece
Fairford
GL7 4FH

28 April 2026

Reference TPO 26/00002

Dear sir/madam

Formal Objection to TPO 26/00002 - The Folly, West End Gradens, Fairford

I am lodging an objection to the proposed TPO affecting groups of trees within The Folly. This has been submitted to circumvent the planning application in progress – Ref: 26/00229/PLP to which a neighbour clearly objects and did contest the previous application made in 2025. The TPO is the subject to lobbying on the town community Facebooks page (Enclosure) in which Mr Petty suggests all the trees on the land are to be removed which is false; he fails to note that the environmental plan for the redevelopment will result in more trees being planted on the land, along with hedging and extensive environmental enhancements that exceeds the number that will be felled to optimise the land in a sustainable approach. Moreover, the developers (of which I am one) have submitted a plan to the Town Council to plant as an environmental offset of up to 60 trees within the town itself rather than seek a bio diversity net gain commercial offset elsewhere out of the district.

Among the trees in question are:

Group G1. The G1 conifers were identified as Western Red Cedar and were originally planted by the previous owner as part of hedging, spare trees from the Ernest Cooks. They are partially masked by other albeit slightly smaller trees within Ernest Cook ground.

Group G2. The spruce trees were sourced as per G1 with the same intent. From lack of trees or thinning, they exceeded the intended purpose.

These two groups of trees are only visible for a short while when driving or walking along the road (Welsh Way) and using the footpath through The Folly's garden and do not form an important visual barrier between town development and the countryside given the alignment along the road itself; they are 90 degrees out from being a visual barrier.

The plan remains to re-hedge the boundary along the road (G 1 and 2) with native mixed thorn with embedded fruiting trees. This would realign with a safer entrance for path vehicular and foot traffic to the east of the G2 group.

Group G3. Old apple trees that were professionally assessed as part of the ecology report as approaching the end of useful life and the current owner reports an ever-dwindling

crop. Our intent was to replant more fruiting trees including apple, pear and cherry.

- T1. A conifer appears to have been strategically selected from the new outline planning permission to coincide with a garage. It is hard to see from the road or the footpath and experiencing dieback.

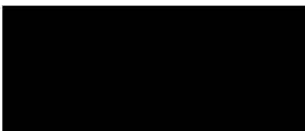
As mentioned above. More native trees will be replanted than the total number removed to enable construction.

The TPO submission and Facebook lobbying incorrectly implies this is an important local amenity; if it is deemed so by the Council, then so should every tree that can be seen from a path or road through Fairford. The Facebook post provides encouragement and coaching on how to support the TPO and provided further incorrect assertions on the intent of the developers. On the Facebook thread, a Carol Williams confirms that the TPO application is an anti-development manoeuvre.

While the trees and most of the garden/smallholding is visible from the footpath through the property, the footpath only provides a shortcut used by a very small number of neighbours as a shortcut to Welsh Way and does not link directly to any other element of the Fairford footpath network. Indeed, the nearest 4 houses along West End Graden (New Morton, Spring Cottage, Allington and Ivycote) have direct access to Welsh Way without transiting The Folly's garden. They too have the footpath dissecting their gardens immediately in front of their houses. It is of note that the TPO submission was specifically against The Folly and makes no attempt to include trees within those 4 properties that also have public access. Why just The Follys' trees? See Attachment 2 – photos along Welsh Way that shows the Folly trees do not form an important barrier between town and country.

TPO 26/00002 is a dis-ingenuous application and a misuse of the important TPO legislation. It should not be used to settle a neighbourly dispute or to detract from the appropriate planning process.

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of R T Whittingham.

R T Whittingham

Facebook Posts from Fairford – Our Page, Our Town, Our Community



Ray Petty

15 April at 14:26 · 🌐

...

URGENT: Help Protect the Trees at The Folly

Cotswold District Council has issued a temporary Tree Preservation Order (TPO 26/00002) for the mature trees at The Folly, West End Gardens. These trees are located directly opposite Sunhill Close, Fairford, on the road to Honeycombe Leaze. We need community support to make this protection permanent before the trees can be cleared for development.

How to help:

Email the Council by **6 May 2026** to formally state your support for making the TPO permanent.

Where to send:

Email: planning@cotswold.gov.uk

Reference: **TPO 26/00002** (You must include this reference)

What to write:

For your comment to be counted, it must focus on "material considerations." Please use your own words to highlight any of the following points:

- **Visual Amenity:** The trees significantly improve the street scene along Welsh Way.
- **Landscape Buffer:** They provide a crucial natural boundary between the settlement and the open farmland.
- **Wildlife & Ecology:** They are a vital habitat and green corridor for local biodiversity.
- **Risk of Loss:** The immediate threat of the trees being felled prior to any planning applications being decided.

(Note: The Council cannot consider complaints about property values, loss of private views, or personal disputes).

Every letter counts in securing the future of these trees. Please take five minutes to email your support.

10 Like Reply



Carol Williams

Well said Ray. Too much over development and loss of important trees. Good Luck with it.

1d Like Reply



Richard Hughes

Done.

1d Like Reply

Views along Welsh Way.

Looking west, towards open country.



View westwards
along Welsh way as
seen from opposite
Ilycote cottage

Trees in Group 1 and
2 are hidden behind a
Willow.



Willow and Fruit Tree
to east of Folly that
mask trees within the
proposed TPO, but
not included in the
TPO application.



View westwards once by the Folly. The Western Red Cedars partially obscure the view around the bend.

Looking East from the road (Welsh Way) into the Town boundary and Sunhill Close



The trees to the left of the 30mph sign are not within the Folly's Garden. The G1 and G2 trees immediately beyond the road sign do not form a barrier between housing and the open countryside.

View of the Eastern Town Boundary



The houses on the extreme left are Sunhill Close. The trees behind the houses are the G1 G2 groups barely visible behind existing development. The trees to the left of the Sunhill houses are actually in a common land areas within the Ernest Cook farmland estate.

The Sunhill Close Saxon Way and Jacobs Piece developments overlook open farmland. The trees mid picture are mostly within the farmland and the footpath between Saxon Way and the farmland up to Coronation Road.

The loss of G1 and G2 mature trees will not radically change the town boundary view.