

APPLICATION NO	PA/2011/1228
APPLICANT	Mr M Andrews
DEVELOPMENT	Consent to fell 3 beech trees covered by Tree Preservation (Barton-upon-Humber) Order 1955
LOCATION	Haleakala, 30 Eastfield Road, Barton-upon-Humber
PARISH	BARTON-UPON-HUMBER
WARD	Barton-upon-Humber
SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION	Grant consent subject to conditions
REASONS FOR REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE	Objection by Barton-upon-Humber Town Council

POLICIES

Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber: No specific policies apply.

North Lincolnshire Local Plan: Policy LC12 (Protection of Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows) states that particular regard will be given to the protection of these features within the setting of settlements, the protection of ancient woodlands and historic hedgerows and the amenity value of trees within built-up areas.

Policy DS1 relates to general requirements to be taken into account on all applications, including the need to protect features of conservation interest, including trees and woodland the subject of tree preservation orders.

CONSULTATIONS

Highways: No objection.

TOWN COUNCIL

Object to the proposal on the following grounds:

- The trees contribute to the character of the area.
- There is no evidence the trees are diseased.
- If the trees are to be removed for the better management of other trees, this should be supported by an arboricultural report and should be applied consistently to all trees in the copse.

PUBLICITY

Neighbouring properties have been notified and a site notice posted. No comments have been received.

ASSESSMENT

This application seeks consent to fell three mature beech trees on the grounds that they are poor specimens, having grown very close to other trees, and their removal would benefit the remaining trees.

The main issues of this application are:

- **the impact the removal of the three trees would have on the character of the local landscape; and**
- **whether or not there are sufficient grounds for the removal of the trees.**

Impact of the proposed removal of the trees

All the trees in the application are protected by Tree Preservation (Barton-upon-Humber) Order 1955, and are part of a group of 17 mature broadleaved trees growing in the south-eastern part of the applicant's garden at Haleakala, Eastfield Road, Barton-upon-Humber.

This group is on the eastern edge of Baysgarth Park flanking Eastfield Road and contributes to the overall well-treed character of this area of the town.

But given the number of trees in the group, together with those adjacent in Baysgarth Park which form a wooded backdrop, the removal of the three trees would not have a detrimental impact on the character of the local landscape. And to retain the treed character of the area, replacement trees can be conditioned in any approval.

Grounds put forward for the removal of the trees

Trees growing close together as part of a group should be regularly thinned, that is some trees should be regularly removed to allow the remainder to develop. Where that isn't carried out trees suppress each other's development and are prone to become very tall and slender with small crowns. Tall slender stems reduce stability and small crowns reduce a tree's ability to produce energy and so sustain itself.

Therefore the proposal to remove three trees within the group of 17 is appropriate. The trees chosen for removal are either poor specimens, having been suppressed by neighbouring trees for some time, or their removal would allow neighbouring trees to develop.

The town council's comments are acknowledged, however:

- as discussed above, the impact on the character of the local landscape, should the trees be removed, is considered insignificant;
- the applicant does not state the trees are diseased, and where the removal of trees would benefit neighbouring trees, there is no requirement that trees must be diseased before removal;
- because the applicant is not alleging the trees are dangerous or causing damage to property, the council cannot require an arboricultural report, neither can the council require the trees' owner to carry out other works beyond that which has been applied for.

RECOMMENDATION Grant consent subject to the following conditions:

1.
All work shall be carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010 'Tree Work Recommendations'.

Reason

To ensure the work is carried out to an appropriate standard.

2.
Within 12 months of the date of felling the trees, or within such extended period as the local planning authority may allow, 3 beech trees (*Fagus sylvatica*) shall be planted in the same or similar location as the trees which are subject of this consent. The new trees shall have a minimum girth of 12-14 cm on planting.

Reason

To ensure replacement planting is undertaken in the interests of visual amenity.

3.
The trees, when planted, shall be adequately staked and tied.

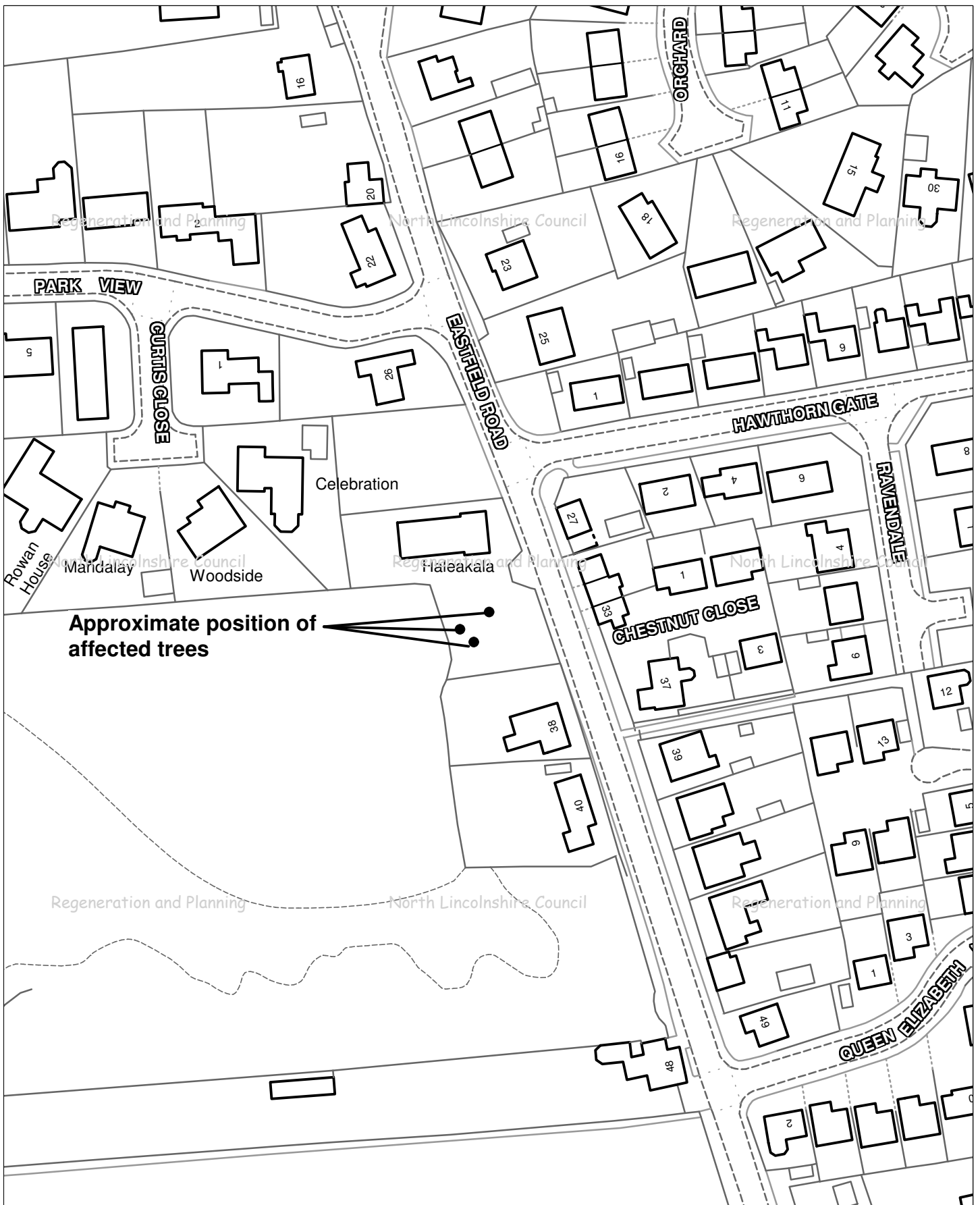
Reason

In the interests of good arboricultural practice.

4.
For a period of two years from the completion of the planting, the trees, together with their stakes and ties, shall be adequately maintained and during that period all losses made good.

Reason

To help the trees become established and to ensure they are replaced if they fail.



Drawing Title: 2011/1228

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Regeneration and Planning

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