

MEMORANDUM



From:	Andy Bucklitch Tree & Woodland Officer	To:	Kam Sodhi Legal Officer
My Ref:	TPO (15) 2010 Land at Aldi site, Sherwood Road, Bromsgrove	Your Ref:	TPO (15) 2010 Land at Aldi site, Sherwood Road, Bromsgrove
Please ask for:	Andy Bucklitch	Ext	3075
	Date	29 March 2011	

Please find my comments below.

Background

The provisional Tree Preservation Orders listed above was made in November 2010 and is now due to be either confirmed or revoked. I consider that the trees are of sufficient merit and under such reasonably foreseeable threat to merit the continued protection of a TPO.

The trees on the site provide a valuable screening and softening effect to the new Aldi store as well as a substantial contribution to counteracting noise, dust and air pollution in the adjacent Redditch Road Air Quality Management Area. The existing and replacement trees on the site also directly serve to mitigate the environmental impact of the new Aldi store and increased traffic arising from it.

Objections and Representations

1 Objection has been received. My comments in respect of these are as follows:

Dalkin Scotton Partnership on behalf of Aldi Stores Limited- 7th December 2010

Amenity value – during the course of the recent planning application for the new Aldi store, the applicant's own arboricultural consultant carried out an amenity assessment in line with British Standard 5837:2005. Although this assessment was notable pessimistic in character and rated the trees at least one grade lower than I would consider them to be, the vast majority were still rated **B2** and defined as '*Those of moderate quality and value: those in such a condition to make a significant contribution*'. Only 5 trees on the site were rated lower than this at **C2** or **C3** defined as '*Those of low quality & value: currently in adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established*' because of either defects in structure or condition although all of these trees have since been subject to tree surgery to amend the defect identified or have been felled and replaced on a 1 for 1 basis with new trees.

My own application of the amenity assessment using the BS 5837 criteria rates the majority of the trees as **A2**, defined as '*Trees, groups or woodlands which provide a definite screening or softening effect to the locality in relation to views into or out of the site, or those of particular visual importance*'. This screening and softening effect of the trees upon the new store is evident to see from all direction. Even those remaining trees of lower quality I would still class as **B1** – defined as '*Trees that might be included in a higher category, but are downgraded because of impaired condition*' and consider worthy of retention.

Expediency – While the applicants claim that the trees are now 'under good agricultural or horticultural management' I am afraid that during the course of the planning application and the construction of the new store additional involvement was required by the Council's Tree Officer in relation to the trees on this site that does not support this claim. During the planning phase, it was necessary to press the applicant to have works carried out on some trees so that they did not pose a threat to both builders and subsequent site users. In addition, during and after the building works repeated informal requests were made to remove additional trees in order to increase the visibility of the store and advertising to passing traffic. During this period, although they were relatively minor,

there were also a number of minor infringements of the tree protection required by the planning consent such as unauthorised installation of temporary advertising hoardings and site machinery within the root protection areas of the trees and removal of protective fencing. Overall, the story so far is not one clearly demonstrating a desire to retain and protect the trees which contribute to the amenity of the site and the local area and so I consider that it is still expedient to protect the trees for the long term.

Recommendation

That the Order is confirmed without amendment.