Tree Preservation Order TP/10-1974 Bence Lane, Kexbrough

104 Bence Lane, Darton

Condition Of Tree T1 September 2013

Tree T1 is a white flowered horse chestnut approximately 17metres high, at 1·3metres the girth is 2·8 metres. It has been showing signs of bleeding canker for over 10 years. The tree was planted many years before nearby development and included in the 1974 tree preservation order. The TPO was justified as enhancing the "street scene."

The tree has become a danger, dropping two large branches and other smaller ones in the last 3 years into domestic gardens. Permission is sought for its felling and removal.

Photographs of the desensed tree and location plan are enclosed.

Bleeding canker is a well known nationally recognised widespread problem in Horse Chestnut. Bleeding canker of this tree has been in evidence for over 10 years. Seven years ago the Forestry Commission reported a severe problem with 37% of specimens in Yorkshire and Humberside suffering from bleeding canker. Five years ago the problem with this tree were discussed on site with Barnsley council's then representative, Zoe Warren after a large bough had fallen. The thoughts then were that recovery might be possible and felling

of the tree at that time not relevant. The tree has not recovered has now got considerably worse.

The entire trunk and some major branches are girdled with cracked and peeling bark caused by bleeding canker. The tree is still living but will eventually die due to the cutting off of the water supply through the trunk to the crown of the tree. The tree shows some crown dieback. The yellowing of foliage over some 70% of the canopy is associated with this dieback and canker. Leaves are smaller than might be expected with early leaffall. A large bough fell unexpectedly in early September 2013.

Because of the position of the tree in proximity to adjacent domestic property, sheds, garages and a conservatory it is believed the tree should be felled on safety grounds. There is no chance of the tree's recovery.

The Council will have records over many years from residents of 3 Beaumont Road suggesting tree T1 (and also T2) be removed on safety grounds. Residents of 5 Beaumont Road are aware of the condition of tree T1 and its impending demise.

Because of the close proximity of tree T1 to T2, development since the TPO was made shielding the trees from the street, and the ground being very dry it is suggested T1 should not be replaced. T2 will expand to partially fill the void resulting

from removal of T1. The "street scene" will only marginally be affected should T1 be removed.

R. D. Bell, Sept. 2013.

Post Script: December 5, 2013 a small branch (90mm diameter) dropped into the garden of no 3 Beaumont Road during wind from tree T1. Residents of no 3 & no 5 again requested removal of tree T1. A further photograph of the tree after leaf fall is also enclosed (photo 1)

R. D. Bell Dec 2013