

**Planning Committee:** 10 July 2007  
**Application No:** TPO 327

**Item Number:**

**Town/Parish Council** Kenilworth

**Case Officer** Robert Toll  
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**9 – 11 Casita Grove, Kenilworth, CV8 2QA**

Provisional Tree Preservation Order: TPO 327 - 6 Individual trees  
Objections with regard to T6 - Eucalyptus

**(Refer to attached plan for specific trees)**

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The Tree Preservation Order took effect, on a provisional basis, on 21 March 2007 and continues in force on this basis for a further six months or until the Order is confirmed by the Council whichever first occurs. Before the Council can decide whether the Order should be confirmed, residents living in the vicinity of the Order have a right to make representations.

**SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS**

Mr and Mrs Forrester, 22 Wordsworth Drive, Kenilworth, CV8 2TB– OBJECT on the grounds that:

T6 – Eucalyptus in the rear garden of 9 Casita Grove adjacent to 22 Wordsworth Drive,

- The tree conflicts with the spirit of the new legislation high hedges law. The Eucalyptus is an evergreen and can be included in the legislation
- The tree should be pruned by at least 8.10 metres in line with High Hedge legislation
- This tree is only 18 – 20 years old and stands at 20 metres high. There are over 700 species of eucalyptus tree which can grow up to 90 metres high.
- This tree in its present state dominates the garden of the bungalow which stands only 13.8 metres from the tree trunk, spoiling the enjoyment of the garden. Daylight and sunlight are severely restricted all year round.
- The tree could be brought down in a storm; if this were to happen the bungalow could be severely damaged or could cause loss of life.
- In drought conditions, this type of tree can drop branches in order to survive, thus the tree is out of bounds in the summer months due to the tree being a health and safety risk and should be reduced in height

Ms Carole Hodson, 21 Wordsworth Drive, Kenilworth Drive, CV8 2TB – OBJECT on the grounds that:

T6 – Eucalyptus in the rear garden of 9 Casita Grove, Kenilworth, adjacent 21 Wordsworth Drive, Kenilworth.

- Eucalyptus trees are extremely fast growing. The tree is already very tall and is out proportion with other trees in the area.
- Not suitable for a relatively small, suburban, domestic garden.
- The tree blocks sunlight into our garden, particularly in the late afternoon and evening, which spoils the enjoyment of the garden when we are most likely to be used – after work
- The Eucalyptus is not native to this country, coming originally from Australia.
- Eucalyptus trees are now seen as causing environmental blight due to their invasiveness and height. The drought they cause and the fact that Eucalyptus oil is poisonous to some wildlife.

## KEY ISSUES

T6 – Eucalyptus in the rear garden of 9 Casita Grove, Kenilworth.

- **The tree conflicts with the spirit of the new legislation high hedges law. The Eucalyptus is an evergreen and can be included in the legislation**

The Eucalyptus is an evergreen tree; however it cannot be included in the High Hedges legislation due to the fact that there are not more than 2 trees/shrubs in a line. As there is only one tree then the legislation cannot be applied.

- **The tree should be pruned by at least 8.10 metres in line with High Hedge legislation**

As has been stated above, the Eucalyptus does not fall under the High Hedges legislation as it does not conform to certain aspects necessary under the legislation. With regard to pruning this tree, it would be detrimental to the tree to prune in this way and other methods of pruning would be considered as and when necessary.

- **This tree is only 18 – 20 years old and stands at 20 metres high. There are over 700 species of tree which can grow up to 90 metres high.**

The two most common species of Eucalyptus generally grow to a height of 30m (Eucalyptus gunnii) and 40m (Eucalyptus globulus). In Britain, Eucalyptus as with other exotic species will not reach these heights as they are not growing in their natural conditions. The statement the tree will grow potentially grow to 90m has to be disputed for this particular species of Eucalyptus (eucalyptus gunni). The largest Blue Gum (eucalyptus globulus) grows to 40 metres in certain areas of Ireland and the Isle of Man (as an old plant). The facts about there being over 700 species is true as there are 500 species in Australasia alone, but most struggle to grow in the British climate; however the Cider Gum (eucalyptus globulus) easily and readily naturalises to the British climate.

- **This tree in its present state dominates the garden of the bungalow which stands only 13.8 metres from the tree trunk, spoiling the**

**enjoyment of the garden. Daylight and sunlight are severely restricted all year round.**

The distance of 13.8 metres seems to be a satisfactory distance for the tree to grow freely without interfering with the bungalow. With regard to light, there is no right to light with regard to trees in English Law. It is conceded that a certain amount of light would be lost, however, it is not, unless in extreme situations, a reason to remove or lop a tree.

- **The tree could be brought down in a storm; if this were to happen the bungalow could be severely damaged or could cause loss of life.**

There is a possibility that the tree may come down in a storm; however it may not and it depends on many different factors. To prune or fell a tree, with no visible problem, because it may fall down is not a sufficient reason to warrant not imposing a TPO.

- **In drought conditions this type of tree can drop branches in order to survive, thus the tree is out of bounds in the summer months due to the tree being a health and safety risk and should be reduced in height**

Trees dropping branches in drought conditions is a rare and unpredictable occurrence. It is not confined to Eucalyptus, as many species can have this occur. To lop the tree down in size would not stop this problem, and also would set a dangerous precedent to start pruning trees on the basis of what could happen, rather than taking into account the facts at the time.

- **Eucalyptus trees are extremely fast growing. The tree is already very tall and is out proportion with other trees in the area.**

The tree is tall and very conspicuous which is part of the reason that it has been put under a temporary Tree Preservation Order. There are other large trees in the area which would indicate that it is not out of proportion. Its nature of growth and size adds amenity and diversity to the area.

- **The Eucalyptus is not native to this country, coming originally from Australia.**

Tree Preservation Orders are not confined to native species. Exotic species such as the Eucalyptus are important from the aspect of visual amenity. The tree has good visual amenity and as such has been put under a temporary Tree Preservation Order.

- **Eucalyptus trees are now seen as causing environmental blight due to their invasiveness and height, the drought they cause and the fact that Eucalyptus oil is poisonous to some wildlife.**

Firstly the height of a tree is not an environmental issue. In the British climate Eucalyptus struggle to germinate and would not be highly invasive. The fact that Eucalyptus is poisonous to some species is not reason not TPO a tree. Yew trees can be deadly to humans, however these trees are readily protected when the need arises.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Eucalyptus has a positive effect on the surrounding area. Its height and size allow it to be seen from surrounding homes and public highways and creates a natural backdrop to the straight edges of the houses.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the TPO 327 be **confirmed** to protect all 6 trees including the Eucalyptus.

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