

Letter to Bexley's Head of Development Management requesting TPOs

Bexley have been so helpful in providing us with maps showing exactly where in North Cray TPOs are place. This means that we are now able to see what trees remain unprotected. The purpose of this letter therefore is to respectfully ask you if you would be good enough to issue TPOs for these trees too.

They form three groups and I will take each in turn below.

1. The trees running along both sides of the North Cray Road. Presumably, these were planted by the Council after the construction of the dual carriageway in the late 1960s. These trees, now mature, have done much to soften the appearance of this wide and busy through-road, and to reduce air pollution created by the increase in vehicular traffic. They have also lessened the loss local people still feel about our Village having been divided into two parts - and several of its centuries-old buildings destroyed.

2. All the trees on Footscray Meadows Currently, only the run of trees running along both sides of the River Cray, northward from the Five Arch Bridge, are protected by a TPO. See also para 3 below.

3. The one surviving Cedar tree on Footscray Meadows beside The Spinney. This is located on what was once the Parkland of North Cray Place, laid out by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in circa 1782. Until about five years ago there were two Cedars at this point, but we understand that one of them was removed by the Council as it was wind damaged and believed to be beyond saving. Two other of 'Capability' Brown's Cedars have survived in gardens behind St James Way and fortunately these are protected by a TPO. But, unlike the lone surviving Cedar in the Meadows, they are not on public land and so cannot be fully appreciated by local people. This is why we feel so strongly that it should be given the protection of a TPO.

Hoping very much that you will kindly meet our request,

Yours sincerely

Jean Gammons

Secretary.

Bexley's Response

Dear Ms Gammons,

My colleagues in the Trees department have reviewed your request below. We understand that all the trees referred to are owned and managed by the Council. The trees are either public highway or public open spaces and managed by colleagues in Grounds & Highways departments. The Council would not generally place a TPO on trees on our own land as we can appropriately manage/protect them as landowner.

In relation to the removal of the Cedar in the Spinney I am told this was undertaken due to the tree's decline in health and the accompanying health & safety concerns in a public open space.