

# Malton War Memorial Restoration Committee

c/o Malton Town Council  
Community House  
Wentworth Street  
Malton  
YO17 7BN

Mr Don Davies  
Tree & Countryside Officer  
Ryedale District Council  
Malton  
YO17 7HH

25 June 2017

Felling Application No. 17/00504/CAT  
Tree Preservation Order No. 346/2017

Dear Mr Davies

## Tree Preservation Order at Malton War Memorial

We are in receipt of the above Tree Preservation Order dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and wish to make a formal objection. We note from your letter to Alan Mitchell that the order is based solely on *amenity* and we believe there are other considerations which should be taken into account:

1. The War Memorial unveiling ceremony took place on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1921. It was paid for by public subscription which included a sum invested on behalf of Malton Urban Council, as it then was, to maintain the monument in perpetuity. The Memorial belongs to the people of Malton and any decision relating to it must be taken by Councillors representing the wishes of their descendants.
2. Malton Town Council, as owners of the land, formally approved the felling of the tree at their meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017.
3. The Planning Application 15/01093/FUL for our proposed changes to the Memorial was revalidated by Ryedale District Council on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The changes were prompted by safety considerations for those attending Remembrance Sunday and to provide wheelchair access to the monument for any disabled wishing to lay a wreath. Yorkersgate is now a very busy road and there is insufficient room in front of the Memorial to accommodate all those attending the Remembrance Ceremony without spilling out onto the road. Furthermore, the constant noise from the passing traffic detracts from the solemnity of the Ceremony. We remind you that the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 falls on a Sunday and we believe that the Council should be aware of the safety of the considerable number of people who are likely to attend at that poignant moment of national significance.
4. To provide disabled access we plan to lower the existing ground level by about two feet and repave with a suitable surface for wheelchairs with provision for the natural watering of a new tree or trees. We do not believe that is possible without disturbing the existing tree and the TPO leaves the future of the project in question.



5. The existing tree is a Sycamore, probably self-seeded; they are often referred to as *the weeds of the tree world*. It dominates the monument when the *Cross of Sacrifice* should be the dominant feature. The tree is already overhanging Yorkersgate and Horsemarket Road and may soon require lopping to prevent damage to passing high-sided vehicles. Furthermore, we do not believe it is appropriate to have a large tree in the centre of a sacred monument.

A considerable amount of time has been spent by many volunteers in putting together the application for the Heritage Lottery Grant funding. We have the support of; Malton Town Council, Rotary, Lions, The British Legion, Fitzwilliam Estate. We would be very disappointed if Ryedale District Council were not able to support our application.

Yours sincerely



Colin Jennings  
Chairman War Memorial Restoration Committee

On behalf of:

Gail Cook	Malton Town Council Clerk
Rosemary Mitchell	Maltech (UK) Ltd
Kevin Chiltern	Chiltern Safety Solutions
Les Chapman	
Shaun Brosnan	British Legion
Paul Farndale	British Legion
Paul Emberley	Malton Town Councillor
John Howard	Local Historian

cc Councillor W R F H Oxley





Photographs courtesy Mark S Feather, Agricultural, Woodland & Landscape Consultant.

