

# The Landscape Design Company

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By email

Mr Don Davies,  
Senior Specialist, Tree and Countryside Officer,  
Ryedale District Council,  
Ryedale House,  
Malton Road,  
Malton,  
North Yorkshire, YO17 7HH.

07.07.17

Dear Mr Davis

**Re: Tree Preservation Order No. 346/2017**

As the Landscape Architect responsible for the design proposals for the Malton War Memorial Site and for putting together the consent to fell application on behalf of the agent, maltech (UK) Ltd, I am writing to object to the above order on the grounds of amenity and subjectivity of assessment.

(Based on the estimated life expectancy of 50+ years, Mark S Feather- Arboricultural report) the making of TPO on the Sycamore tree is a short sighted, **medium term amenity** solution, retaining and maintaining a tree which will deteriorate and eventually require felling, all at local public expense. Retention of the tree also compromises the original design objective of inclusive access and thereby reduces the amenity value of the site for disabled and the infirm. In order to maintain soil levels around the tree some existing steps have to be retained and additional steps included, which prevents access to the seating area for wheel chair users.

The War Memorial Committee, by proposing to replace the tree with a new one (estimated life expectancy of 150 years) and remodel the site, is looking at both the **immediate and long term amenity value** of the site and surrounding area. Removal of the tree now, and full implementation of an inclusive scheme funded by Heritage Lottery Grant, is the ideal practical solution rather than partial implementation of works or having to meet costs replacing damaged paving, upon felling at a later date.

There is a degree of subjectivity in the TEMPO sheet and formal notice which I do not agree with. The tree is described as 'substantial' and whilst it is a large tree it lacks the stature of far better specimens along Yorkersgate, Horsemarket Road and the grounds of

Tree Preservation Order No. 346/2017continued

the Talbot Hotel. Indeed if the tree was to be removed it would open up views of the Robinia, Copper Beech , Walnut and others that it currently obscures because of the angle of view. These trees would still provide a backdrop to the memorial without the dominating/ overshadowing effect the sycamore has.


The tree scores 4 in terms of retention span. However it cannot be denied that the tree is a nuisance and has outgrown its context since:

- it has lifted the surrounding paving so that it now presents a trip hazard
- it interferes with passing high sided vehicles including the Coast liner bus
- it is a species prone to drop sticky honeydew, which combined with dust and pollution can contribute to discolouration of adjacent stonework.

On the above grounds it would merit a 0 score, thereby giving the tree an overall score of 9 points which does not merit a TPO.

As a Landscape Architect, the proposal to fell a mature tree is not proposed lightly, as care and improvement of the landscape is the ethos of our profession. The Proposed War Memorial works are intended to improve the overall amenity for all users of the site, both in the short and long term. It is hoped that Council will support this (and the time and effort spent to date by organisations and representatives of the community) by allowing removal of the tree.

Yours sincerely

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'u'.

Rosemary Mitchell BA DipLA, CMLI