

TP-260

Tree Preservation Order : Shorrocks Hill, Lifeboat Road and land alongside St Luke's Church Road, Formby

STATEMENT OF GROUNDS

Shorrocks Hill is a former hotel and leisure centre facility (now closed) accessed off Lifeboat Road and Bushby's Lane, Formby. It is situated to the west side of the residential area of Formby and is bordered by coastal woodland and the Formby Point Caravan Park. It comprises a site of around 4.4 hectares. The former country club and hotel is a large building with relatively substantial areas of hard standing for car parking. The site additionally incorporates a swimming pool, stabling (still in use), and a range of recreational pursuits including tennis courts and a woodland running track. Around the site boundaries and within the car parking area and central site area is substantial tree cover both of broadleaved and evergreen species type creating a well wooded character and appearance.

The land at Shorrocks Hill was submitted on behalf of the landowner of the site for consideration at the examination of the Sefton Local Plan, for potential release from the Green Belt for the purpose of residential development. The site was considered at the examination and is now subject to assessment by the Inspector of comments submitted on the Proposed Modifications to the Local Plan.

Concern has been expressed to the planning authority over the potential for large scale tree loss to occur that would have a negative impact upon wildlife habitat and the visual amenities of the area, and that a Tree Preservation Order be made to safeguard the significantly important visual amenity both within the site and to the immediate surrounding area and local street scene.

The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 enables Local Authorities to make provision for preserving trees where "it is expedient in the interests of amenity". The Planning Authority view the trees as a prominent landscape feature and conclude that they contribute to the setting and visual amenities of the site and immediate surrounding area. The trees also provide an important 'green' corridor and link from the adjoining coastal woodland through to the neighbouring residential areas.

A Tree Preservation Order would protect against any indiscriminate or uncontrolled felling and or pruning works. In addition it would allow for any further consideration of potential appropriate future development proposals and the retention of trees, or appropriate arboricultural works, to be considered and assessed within the context of such an Order.

Any major removal of trees would be seen as a significant detriment to the visual amenities of the area.