

## **Southern Area Planning Committee 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

### **Written update to Committee Report Agenda Item**

#### **Cheshire East Borough Council (Bunbury – Land West of Oak Gardens) Tree Preservation Order 2014**

The Council has received further communication from Susan Reid formally of 8 Wakes Meadow, Bunbury in support of the Order. Ms Reid states that Footpath 14 (Bunbury FP14) is not the nearest public footpath to the protected Ash tree and that in 2006 Bunbury Parish Council's footpath officer put in a Definitive Map Modification Order to have a diagonal path across the field recognised. This path has been used in living memory and is still used as the direct route by foot to the village from Spurstow, via the footbridge. For some reason it was missed off the Definitive Map and that is why an application to have it added was made. Due to a backlog of cases this case has not yet been heard. The path runs close to the Ash tree, but not close enough to pose a danger to walkers. On the contrary it is a land mark for them.

It is this proposed footpath modification to which the objector refers in their submitted objection.

The Principal Forestry and Arboricultural Officer has contacted the Council's Public Rights of Way Team who have confirmed that an application for a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) for the addition of a public footpath between Footpath 14 (Bunbury FP14) and Footpath 15 (Bunbury FP15) was made on behalf of Bunbury Parish Council in August 2006. The Order is one of a large number of footpath modification applications that are currently being considered by the Public Rights of Way Team and as yet no resolution has been made on this specific application.

The position of the proposed additional footpath is closer to the protected Ash tree, however the Principal Forestry and Arboricultural Officer is satisfied that any risk that may result can be satisfactorily addressed by appropriate pruning and Veteran tree management recognised by Natural England.

Since the publication of the Committee report, the Council has received a further nine e-mails in support of the TPO from local residents. The writers stated i the need to save the Veteran Ash tree as an important contribution to the local amenity and landscape character of the area and as a habitat for bats.

20/2/2015