

**Opposition motion in the name of Cllr Rohit Grover: ‘Putting sustainability at the heart of everything we do’ means exploring all avenues for protecting our trees.**

**Council notes that:**

1. Earlier this year Planning Committee A approved an application to fell an oak tree of special amenity value in Garden Suburb ward that had previously been protected by a Tree Preservation Order.
2. Government guidance advises that in considering such applications the local planning authority should:
  - assess the amenity value of the tree and the likely impact of the proposal on the amenity of the area;
  - consider, in the light of this assessment, whether or not the proposal is justified, having regard to the reasons and additional information put forward in support of it;
  - consider whether any loss or damage is likely to arise if consent is refused or granted subject to conditions;
  - consider whether any requirements apply in regard to protected species;
  - consider other material considerations, including development plan policies where relevant; and
  - ensure that appropriate expertise informs its decision.
3. Barnet’s Corporate Plan 2023-2026, ‘Caring for our people, our places and the planet’, commits the Council to: ‘put sustainability at the heart of everything we do’ and ‘enhance our green and open spaces so they are attractive places with excellent biodiversity and tree cover’.

**This Council resolves to:**

1. Instruct officers to review all applicable laws, policies and procedures to ensure that the Council is doing everything it can to maintain the protection of trees - and particularly trees subject to TPOs, in line with the commitments made in its Corporate Plan.
2. Present the outcome of this review to the appropriate Committee or Cabinet for consideration and action as necessary.