

## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

### COUNCIL – 1 MARCH 2022

#### (A) PETITION – “WOODLAND NORTH OF HARE STREET VILLAGE – EAST OF B1368 OPPOSITE MILL VIEW”

A petition has been submitted by Sheila Beetles, on behalf of 167 signatories, seeking that the Council name and recognise the woodland North of Hare Street Village, impose a Tree Preservation Order on existing trees and impose a replanting order on those failing to comply. Signatures have been collected via a written petition. The petition states:

“We the undersigned petitioners feel very strongly that woodland at the above location be named and recognised as existing woodland and that a tree preservation order be place on mature and semi mature trees some of which are over 20 years of age and have a girth of 6 ft 4 inches. These trees are currently under threat and it is vital that this wildlife habitat is protected. The Government has strict guidelines for farmers and landowners for planting and protecting the environment and ecology. Photos are attached.”

“This woodland had been planted by owners and allowed to develop naturally over the last 30 years it is now a haven for birds and wildlife, and since it borders a public footpath and bridge over the rivers, is a valuable local amenity for birdwatching and nature study. Bordering the River Quinn, it also serves as a natural sponge to soak up high water table in this river valley and as such is serving a vital purpose, particularly at times of flood. This is the only wooded area along this stretch of the River which drains thousands of acres of arable land and forms the source of the river which feeds the River Lee, allowing this to be removed would cause added flooding further downstream.”

“We are being told that woodlands are so important both for people and habitat for nature and we are urged to plant more trees. Indeed ‘Natural England’ who advise the government on such matters launched an initiative in Nov 2020 to ‘restore nature across England’. It seems wrong to be allowing trees to be destroyed whilst using public money to plant more. We hope our Council is seeking to contribute to this plan to conserve biodiversity.”

“We therefore request that you consider:

- a) Naming and recognising this 30 acre wood as existing woodland.
- b) Imposing a Tree Preservation Order on existing trees
- c) Imposing a replanting order on those failing to comply”