

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:P07/0306

Type of approval sought	Tree Preservation Order
Ward	Kingswinford South
Applicant	Mr James M Gould
Location:	7, SAND MEADOW PLACE, KINGSWINFORD, WEST MIDLANDS, DY6 9RF
Proposal	FELL 1 LARCH TREE
Recommendation Summary:	APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO: D377 (1992) – W1

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

1. The tree subject to this application is a mature larch tree that has attained a good height and is visible from Sand Meadow Drive, Ridge Road and Kingsley Road.
2. The tree subject to this application is a remnant of the wooded area that covered this site prior to the infilling of the abandoned sand pit, and the development of the residential bungalows.

PROPOSAL

3. Summary of proposals for the works as written on application form is as follows:
 - Fell 1 Larch tree.
4. The tree has been marked on the attached plan.

HISTORY

5. There has been one previous Tree Preservation Order application on this site.

<i>Site History</i>		
Application No	P03/0407	06/03/03
Proposal	Fell 3 Deciduous trees	Refused

Reason for refusal:

The felling of the trees as proposed would be detrimental to the visual amenities to the area in the vicinity of the site.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

6. No public representations have been received.

ASSESSMENT

Tree(s) Appraisal

Criteria	Trees 1
TPO No	W1
Species	Larch
Height	20m
Spread	5m
Diameter	400mm
Form	Poor - Drawn up
Vigour	Moderate / Poor
Approx Age	Mature
Pests / Diseases	None evident.
Canopy	Poor – has lost a substantial amount of branches
% Deadwood	10%
Cavities	None Evident
Bark	Good
Roots	Good
Overall Health	Moderate / Poor
Visibility	High
Amenity Value	Moderate

Further Assessment

7. The tree subject to this application is a mature larch tree that is situated in the rear garden of 7 Sand Meadow Place. The tree is visible from a number of areas of public vantage and provides a moderate amount of amenity.
8. The applicant would like to fell the tree as they are concerned about its safety following the loss of a number of branches during the recent high winds.
9. On inspection the tree was found to have a sparse crown. This has resulted from the combination of the tree growing up in competition with other trees, prior to the clearance of the wooded area, and previous branch failures.

10. A number of branch stubs were identified as areas of previous branch failure, and a few broken branches were still hung up within the crown. In the absence of any significant decay at the branch failure points, the most likely cause of this past branch failure is the sudden over exposure of the tree to the wind.
11. When the tree was situated at the edge of the wooded area it would have benefited from the shelter of the other trees. As such it would not have needed to develop strong wind firm branches. However as the shelter has now been removed the tree is open to the elements, and the previously untested branches are succumbing to the wind. As such future branch loss is highly likely.
12. The process of this branch loss will speed with every lost branch. As every time a branch falls it will remove more shelter from the remaining branches.
13. With a view to the likely future branch failures the life expectancy of this tree will be greatly reduced. This combined with the risk of personal harm to the residents, or damage to the property itself, make it inappropriate to retain the tree. As such it is recommended that the tree is removed.
14. It is accepted that the removal of this tree will have a detrimental impact on the amenity of the area. However on balance it is considered that the safety of the property and its residents must take priority.

CONCLUSION

15. The larch tree subject to this application has been steadily shedding branches for the last couple of years. This loss of branches is likely to be the result of the loss of the shelter of other tree in which this tree once grew.
16. With a view to the tree's current form and state of health it is likely that the loss of branches will continue. Until there is only an unsightly stem with little or no branch network.
17. As such it is recommended that the tree is felled and a replacement tree is planted to mitigate the loss of amenity in the long term.

RECOMMENDATION

18. It is recommended that application is approved subject to the conditions set out below.

Conditions and/or reasons:

1. The tree works subject of this consent shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS 3998:1989 'Recommendations for Treework'.

2. A replacement tree shall be planted between the beginning of November and the end of March, within 1 year of felling (and replanted if necessary) and maintained until satisfactorily established. The size, species and location of the replacement trees shall be agreed in writing with the Local Planning authority prior to the felling of the trees to which this application relates.
3. The tree is to be inspected for bird nests and any crevices for bats. If any nests are present and disturbance to nesting or fledgling birds are present then works shall not be undertaken between 1st March and 30th August in any year. If bats are present then advice should be sought from English Nature or the local Wildlife Trust.
4. The works hereby approved shall be carried out within 12 months of the date of this decision.