

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: P06/0397

Type of approval sought	Tree Preservation Order
Ward	Norton
Applicant	Matt Vaughan, Green Care Offices
Location:	LAND AT THE SIDE OF 22, LAVENDER LANE, NORTON, STOURBRIDGE, WEST MIDLANDS
Proposal	PRUNE 1 ASH TREE
Recommendation Summary:	APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO: D626 (2000) – T7

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

- 1 The tree subject to this application is an early mature Ash tree that is located on a strip of Local Authority owned land at the side of 22 Lavender Lane.
- 2 The tree is situated in a large housing estate, with a number of mature planted trees in the local vicinity.

PROPOSAL

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

HISTORY

- 5 There have been no previous Tree Preservation Order applications on this site.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 6 No representations have been received.

ASSESSMENT

Tree(s) Appraisal

Criteria	Tree 1
TPO No	T7
Species	Ash
Height	10m
Spread	6m
Diameter	350mm
Form	Good
Vigour	Good
Approx Age	Early Mature
Pests / Diseases	None evident.
Canopy	Good
% Deadwood	1%
Cavities	None Evident
Bark	Good
Roots	Surrounded by tarmac on northern side
Overall Health	Good
Visibility	Moderate
Amenity Value	Moderate

Further Assessment

- 7 This application has been received from the Council's Greencare team. The application is to reduce the crown of the tree back from the adjacent property at 22 Lavender Lane. Currently the outer branches of the trees are in contact with the side wall of the property and the guttering on the rear of the property.
- 8 On inspection the tree was found to be in a reasonable state of health with no significant defects present. However due to the proximity of the adjacent house the tree has developed a drawn up habit.
- 9 As the branches are in close proximity of the side of the house and the guttering of the property a crown reduction should be approved to enable the branches to be pruned clear. Sufficient clearance should also be granted to allow an appropriate growing margin.

- 10 On inspection it is felt that a 2 metre crown reduction will remove all of the branches that can potentially cause damage and enable the upper crown to grow above the house so that no further problems will be caused.
- 11 The works will have a minimal affect on the amenity that the tree provides as it is only the branches on the back side of the tree that will be pruned and the appearance of the tree will not be greatly affected.

CONCLUSION

- 12 The ash tree subject to this application is an early mature specimen in a good condition. However the tree is in close contact with the adjacent building and there is a high potential that the branches of the tree can cause damage to the guttering of the property in times of high wind.
- 13 As such the applicant has requested permission to reduce the tree to ensure that this damage is avoided.
- 14 The amenity that the tree provided will remain relatively unchanged as the works will be localised to the branches on the rear side of the tree. Due to the limited impact of these works on the tree and the rationale behind the work it is recommended that the works are approved.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Conditions and/or reasons:

9. Notwithstanding any of the details on the submitted application forms, the works hereby approved are as follows:-
Schedule:
T1 - Ash - Crown reduce to give no more than 2 metres clearance from the roff of 22 Lavender Lane. All works shall be carried out to leave a well balanced and healthy crown.
10. The tree works subject of this consent shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS 3998:1989 'Recommendations for Treework'.
11. 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.

12. The works hereby approved shall be carried out within 12 months of the date of this decision.
13. Four replacement trees 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 tree to which this application relates.

