

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:P07/0303

Type of approval sought	Tree Preservation Order
Ward	Kingswinford South
Applicant	Philip Anthony Gorton
Location:	9, SAND MEADOW PLACE, KINGSWINFORD, WEST MIDLANDS, DY6 9RF
Proposal	PRUNE 1 SYCAMORE AND 1 ASH TREE AND FELL 1 SYCAMORE TREE
Recommendation Summary:	APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO: D377 (1992) – W1

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

1. The trees subject to this application are two sycamore trees and an ash tree. The ash tree and one of the sycamore trees are mature specimens that have attained a good height and are visible from Sand Meadow Drive, Ridge Road and Kingsley Road. The remaining sycamore tree is a six metre stump that is not visible from any public vantage point.
2. The trees subject to this application are remnants 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:
 - Prune 1 Sycamore and 1 Ash tree and fell 1 Sycamore tree.
4. The trees have 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	Tree 2	Tree 3
TPO No	W1	W1	W1
Species	Sycamore	Ash	Sycamore
Height	17m	17m	6m - Stump
Spread	8m	5m	2m
Diameter	750mm	600mm	300mm
Form	Moderate	Poor – leggy from	Poor
Vigour	Moderate	Poor	Poor
Approx Age	Mature	Mature	Mature
Pests / Diseases	None evident.	None Evident	None Evident
Canopy	Moderate – 1 sided	Poor	Poor
% Deadwood	3%	7%	1%
Cavities	At old pruning wounds	At old pruning wounds	At old pruning wounds
Bark	Good	Good	Good
Roots	Good	Good	Good
Overall Health	Moderate	Moderate / Poor	Poor
Visibility	High	High	Low
Amenity Value	High / Moderate	Moderate	Very Low

Further Assessment

7. The trees subject to this application are a mature ash tree, a fully grown mature sycamore tree and the 6m stump of a sycamore tree. The ash tree and the fully grown sycamore trees are highly visible from the surrounding area, and provide a moderate to high amount of amenity to the surrounding area. The sycamore stump is not publicly visible and provides nothing in the way of amenity to the local area.
8. The trees subject to this application all grew as part of the unmanaged wooded area that colonised the site following the abandoning of the sand pit that existed here prior to development. The result of this unmanaged woodland is that the remaining trees are all misshapen as the result of them competing to get to the light.
9. The applicant would like to prune the fully grown sycamore and ash trees and fell the sycamore stump. Each tree is discussed individually.
10. The fully grown sycamore tree is the better of the three trees subject to this application. It has a moderate canopy form and is in a reasonable state of health with no major defects present. The applicant would like to reduce the crown of the tree that overhangs the roof of the bungalow to prevent small bits of deadwood from falling onto the roof.
11. On inspection a crown reduction of 2 metres to clear the roof is considered to be acceptable. It will not spoil the shape or form of the tree, and will go some way to rebalance the crown. Also as the works will be limited to the outer canopy there should be no detrimental impact on the health of the tree.
12. The ash tree subject to this application is a mature specimen that has a poor form and vigour. The tree has developed long leggy branches with little interior growth. This is likely to be the result of the tree growing up in competition for the light.
13. A secondary limb emanates from just above ground level and grows at almost 45 degrees away from the main stem. Again the majority of growth is situated on the end of this limb. Due to the weight and leverage exerted on this stem failure, either close to the junction with the main stem or part way along its length is a distinct possibility. As such it is recommended that this limb is removed.
14. Due to the poor vigour that this tree exerts, there is a substantial amount of deadwood present through out the crown of the tree. This should all be removed.
15. The sycamore stump subject to this application is all that remains of a mature tree that lost its top a number of years ago. The stump has some re-growth present, but there is evidence of advanced decay towards the top of the stem. As such this stump will never be able to support anything other than minimal growth.
16. Currently the tree has no public amenity value, as it cannot be seen from any public vantage point. As the tree will never be able to re-grow a canopy of any significance,

it is considered that the future amenity of the area would be best served by the removal and replacement of the tree.

CONCLUSION

17. The trees subject to this application are a fully grown sycamore tree, and ash tree and a 6 metre sycamore stump. The applicant has proposed to prune the fully grown sycamore and ash trees and fell the sycamore stump.
18. The ash tree has poor vigour and form, and needs pruning to remove a potentially hazardous limb that extends from close to ground level, also there is a substantial amount of deadwood in the crown the requires removing. The works will not have a detrimental impact on the health or amenity value of the tree.
19. The fully grown sycamore is the best tree on site and has a moderate canopy and is in reasonable health. It is considered that a crown reduction of 2m back from the property is required in order to prevent deadwood from falling onto the roof. The works will not have a detrimental impact on the health or amenity value of the tree.
20. the sycamore stump that the applicants would like to fell, has no amenity value as it cannot be seen from any area of public vantage. As such the felling and replacement of this tree would be best for the future amenity of the area.

RECOMMENDATION

21. 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.