

# PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:P06/0382

Type of approval sought	Tree Preservation Order
Ward	Norton
Applicant	Mr & Mrs B Mathews
Location:	<b>HONEYGATE, QUARRY PARK ROAD, STOURBRIDGE, DY8 2RE</b>
Proposal	<b>FELLING 4 CONIFERS</b>
Recommendation Summary:	<b>APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS</b>

## TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO: D652 (2001) – A62

### SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

- 1 The trees subject to this application are four mature Lawson Cypress trees that are situated within the front garden of Honeygate, Quarry Park Road.
- 2 The surrounding properties are all large residential houses with a large number of mature conifers and broadleaved trees in the immediate vicinity.

### PROPOSAL

- 3 Summary of proposals for the works as written on application form is as follows:
  - Fell four Conifers.
- 4 The trees have 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	Tree 2	Tree 3	Tree 4
TPO No.	A62	A62	A62	A62
Species	Lawson Cypress	Lawson Cypress	Lawson Cypress	Lawson Cypress
Height	7m	7m	7m	7m
Spread	4m	4m	4m	4m
Diameter	400mm	400mm	400mm	400mm
Form	Moderate – Topped	Moderate – Topped	Moderate – Topped	Moderate – Topped
Vigour	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Approx Age	Mature	Mature	Mature	Mature
Pests / Diseases	None evident.	None evident.	None evident.	None evident.
Canopy	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
% Deadwood	1%	1%	1%	1%
Cavities	None Evident	None Evident	None Evident	None Evident
Bark	Good	Good	Good	Good
Roots	Causing damage to driveway and drains	Causing damage to driveway and drains	Causing damage to driveway	Causing damage to driveway
Overall Health	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Amenity Value	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

### Further Assessment

- 7 The 4 Cypress trees subject to this application are situated within the front lawn of Honeygate, Quarry Park Road. They are planted in close proximity to the tarmac driveway. As the trees have grown over the years the canopies have spread out over the driveway and are no restricting the passage of vehicles. The trimming of the trees was considered but due to the nature of the trees, in that it is only the very ends of the branches that bear any foliage, this would leave large patches devoid of foliage

that will not grow back. Trees 1 and 4 are also obstructing visibility when exiting the driveway.

- 8 The roots of the trees are also causing damage to the driveway of the house, as the roots have started to push the surface upwards. This has left a number of significant trip hazards in the driveway, where visitors to the house have fallen in the past.
- 9 Also a drain that runs adjacent to trees 1 and 2 was damaged a number of years ago and had to be repaired. This repair consisted of the removal of roots from inside the drain, and the insertion of a protective sleeve inside the pipe to repair the damaged sections. Whilst this is a good short term measure, it is rarely sustainable as the roots will still be drawn toward the drain and the moisture source that it provides, and can cause more damage in the future.
- 10 Whilst the trees are significant features within the front garden of the property, they are not the most prominent trees in the street scene due the presence of other, larger, mature trees in adjacent properties. There is also a line of younger trees that are situated along the front boundary of the property which the applicant wishes to retain.
- 11 The applicant has stated that they are prepared to replant larger trees to replace the conifers if permission is granted, however they have asked the replacement would be allowed more toward the centre of the front lawn to reduce the chances of similar problems occurring in the future.

## **CONCLUSION**

- 12 The four Cypress trees that are subject to this application are all in a reasonable state of health with no significant defects present. However due to their planting location close to the driveway of the property they are restricting access for vehicles entering onto the property. Whilst at present the trees have not caused any significant damage. The problem will only get worse.
- 13 Also the damage that the trees are causing to the driveway will only get worse in the future as the roots will continue to grow under the drive and will distort the tarmac even more.
- 14 Whilst the trees form a significant feature of the property their value in the wider street scene is diminished due to the large number of other mature trees that are present.
- 15 Due to the limited amenity that these trees provide, the damage to the driveway that the trees are causing and the access restriction that is caused by the trees growing

over the driveway; the removal of the trees is justified on the basis that appropriate replacement trees can be planted.

## RECOMMENDATION

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

Conditions and/or reasons:

5. The tree works subject of this consent shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS 3998:1989 'Recommendations for Treework'.
6. 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.
7. The works hereby approved shall be carried out within 12 months of the date of this decision.
8. Four replacement trees shall be planted between the beginning of November and 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.

