

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:P07/0062

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Type of approval sought | Tree Preservation Order |
| Ward | Sedgley |
| Applicant | Matt Vaughan, Dudley MBC |
| Location: | O/S 54, HIGHFIELD ROAD, SEDGLEY, DUDLEY, DY3 1PZ |
| Proposal | PRUNE 1 LIME TREE |
| Recommendation Summary: | APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS |

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO: D733 (2002) – T32

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

1. The tree subject to this application is a mature lime tree that is located in the front garden of 54 Highfield Road, Dudley. The property is council owned.
2. As the tree is situated in the front garden of the property it is highly visible in the street scene and provides a moderate amount of amenity to the surrounding area.

PROPOSAL

3. Summary of proposals for the works as written on application form is as follows:
 - Prune 1 lime 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 | T32 |
| Species | Lime |
| Height | 7m |
| Spread | 6m |
| Diameter | 400mm |
| Form | Moderate – Old pollard |
| Vigour | Good |
| Approx Age | Mature |
| Pests / Diseases | None evident. |
| Canopy | Moderate – old pollard |
| % Deadwood | 1% |
| Cavities | None Evident |
| Bark | Good |
| Roots | Good – restricted due to adjacent wall |
| Overall Health | Good |
| Visibility | High |
| Amenity Value | Moderate |

Further Assessment

7. The tree subject to this application is a mature lime tree that is situated in the front garden of 54 Highfield Road. The tree has been previously pollarded and as such is only a fraction of the size that an un-pollarded tree of this age would normally be.
8. The applicant would like to prune the side of the tree closest to the road in order to clear the adjacent street light. This will involve the removal of the majority of the re-growth from one side of the tree.
9. On inspection it was noted that the tree does significantly obscure the street lamp to the effect that when in leaf the tree is likely to render the street light useless.

10. The proposed works are unlikely to be detrimental to the tree's health as the tree is vigorous and has a high 'root to shoot' ratio following the previous pollarding.
11. It is accepted that the proposed works are likely to be slightly detrimental to the tree's form in the short term. However as the tree is still developing its canopy following the previous pollarding in the short term the tree will be able to develop a fuller and improved crown.

CONCLUSION

12. The tree subject to this application is a mature lime tree that is located within the front garden of 54 Highfield Road. The tree is in a good condition however it was pollarded a few years ago, and as such is a fraction of the size it would be had it not been pollarded.
13. The applicant would like to prune the side of the tree that hangs over the adjacent footpath. This is to remove the growth that is currently obstructing the visibility of the street light.
14. On inspection the tree was found to be in a good state of health with good vigour. As such it is unlikely that the pruning of this tree will be detrimental to the health of the tree. Whilst the pruning will have a short term detrimental impact on the form of the tree, with a view to the likely growth of the tree this will naturally resolve itself within a couple of growing seasons.

RECOMMENDATION

15. 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. 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.
3. The works hereby approved shall be carried out within 12 months of the date of this decision.