

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:P07/0099

Type of approval sought	Tree Preservation Order
Ward	Sedgley
Applicant	F.A.O. Matt Vaughan, Green Care Offices
Location:	SIDE OF NO'S, 15 & 17, GREENWAY, SEDGLEY, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS
Proposal	POLLARD 2 LIME TREES.
Recommendation Summary:	APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO: D729 (2001) – T55 & T59

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

1. The trees subject to this application are two mature lime trees. They are located on two strips of land at the sides of 15 & 17 Greenway, Sedgley. The land on which the trees are located is council owned.
2. The trees are highly prominent within the area and provide a high amount of amenity to the area.

PROPOSAL

3. Summary of proposals for the works as written on application form is as follows:
 - Re-pollard 2 Lime trees.
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
TPO No	T59	T55
Species	Lime	Lime
Height	14m	14m
Spread	9m	9m
Diameter	600mm	550mm
Form	Moderate – Old pollard	Moderate – Old Pollard
Vigour	Good	Good
Approx Age	Mature	Mature
Pests / Diseases	None evident.	None evident
Canopy	Moderate – old pollard	Moderate – old pollard
% Deadwood	3%	7% - lost limb during recent storms
Cavities	Cavities at old pruning wounds and inclusions at old pollard point	Cavities at old pruning wounds and inclusions at old pollard point
Bark	Good	Good
Roots	Good	Good
Overall Health	Moderate	Moderate / Poor
Visibility	High	High
Amenity Value	High	High

Further Assessment

7. The trees subject to this application are two, council owned, mature lime trees. They are situated either side of the highway on strips of land at the sides of 17 & 15 Greenway, Sedgley.

8. The trees are old pollards that were pollarded approximately 30 years ago. Since the pollarding they had developed full crowns. The applicant would like to re-pollard the trees following a condition assessment of the two trees.
9. On inspection the trees were found to be in a moderate to poor state of health. This was largely the result of the previous pollarding as there is evidence of decay and bark inclusions at the old pollard points. Due to the decay, inclusions and the nature of pollard re-growth, it is now considered that there is a heightened risk of the tree losing significant limbs during time of bad weather. This is evidenced as the tree adjacent to number 15 lost a large limb that failed at the old pollard point during the January storms.
10. On inspection it was considered that due to the poor condition of the old pollard point a lesser reduction to reduce the weight and mechanical forces would not be sufficient to alleviate the risk of limb failure, and as such the re-pollarding is considered to be the most appropriate approach.
11. The pollarding will reduce the tree's amenity value significantly; however the impact of this to the local area will be minimal as there are a large number of mature trees throughout the area. Also the reduction in amenity value is justified as the works are to reduce the hazard the trees currently pose.
12. Once pruned the trees will start to develop a new crown. However to prevent the trees developing the same problems again the trees will have to be managed on a 5-10 year cycle.

CONCLUSION

13. The trees subject to this application are mature lime trees that are situated on strips of land adjacent to numbers 15 & 17 Greenways, Sedgley. The trees were pollarded approximately 30 years ago and have re-grown full crowns.
14. The applicant would like to re-pollard the trees as they have concerns over their safety following a condition assessment.
15. On inspection the old pollard points of both trees were found to have decay and included branch unions present. The combination of these factors means that there is a greater risk of the trees dropping limbs during unsettled weather. The tree adjacent number 15 has already lost one sizeable limb during the storms in January.

16. It is considered that the re-pollarding of the two trees is appropriate as it will remove the hazard of any more limbs dropping from the trees. Whilst the works will have a detrimental impact on the amenity value of the trees, this will be minimal as there are a large number of other mature trees in the immediate area.

RECOMMENDATION

17. 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.