

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:P07/0073

Type of approval sought	Tree Preservation Order
Ward	Sedgley
Applicant	Matt Vaughan
Location:	O/S 37-41, TIPTON ROAD, SEDGLEY, WEST MIDLANDS, DY3 1HB
Proposal	PRUNING WORK TO 1 SYCAMORE TREE, 1 BEECH TREE AND 1 LIME TREE
Recommendation Summary:	APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO: D005 (1961) – T78, T79 & T80

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

1. The trees subject to this application are two mature lime trees and a mature sycamore tree. They are located on land in front of the flat at 37 – 41 Tipton Road, Sedgley; close to the junction with Setton Drive.
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, and crown reduce 1 Sycamore tree.
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
TPO No	T78	T79	T80
Species	Sycamore	Lime	Lime
Height	16m	17m	16m
Spread	10m	8m	7m
Diameter	2 x 450mm	1100mm	900mm
Form	Moderate – Twin stemmed	Moderate – Old Pollard and twin stemmed	Moderate – old pollard
Vigour	Good	Good	Good
Approx Age	Mature	Mature	Mature
Pests / Diseases	None evident.	None evident	None evident
Canopy	Moderate – Twin stemmed	Moderate	Moderate
% Deadwood	1%	5%	5%
Cavities	Cavity present between main stems.	Cavities at old pruning wounds	Cavities at old pruning wounds
Bark	Good	Good	Good
Roots	Good	Good	Good
Overall Health	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Visibility	High	High	High
Amenity Value	High	High	High

Further Assessment

- The trees subject to this application are two mature lime trees and a mature sycamore tree that are located on a grassed area in front of 37 – 41 Tipton Road, Sedgley.

8. The applicant would like to prune the trees following a condition assessment of trees in the area. The application proposes to crown reduce the sycamore by 30% and re-pollard the lime trees to the existing pollard points.
9. On inspection the sycamore was found to be in a generally good condition, with only one significant defect present. This defect is a cavity that has developed between the main stems close to the ground where the stem forks into two. On inspection of this cavity it does not appear to be the result of any overly aggressive fungi, but has slowly developed over time. As the cavity has expanded into the main stems a reduction of the size of the crown is recommended to reduce the stress on this part of the tree.
10. In view of the cavity it is considered that the 30% reduction is justified as it will reduce any chance of potential failure. The amenity of the tree will not be significantly impacted upon as the tree will still remain a substantial size and will still be prominent in the area.
11. The lime trees subject to this application are mature trees that were pollarded approximately 30 – 40 years ago. Since then little management has been undertaken on these trees other than the removal of epicormic growth.
12. On inspection of the trees there were signs of decay and inclusions at the old pollard points. These defects significantly increase the risk of major limb failure at the pollard points and as such current good practice dictates that the trees should be re-pollarded, in order to minimise the chance of future failure.
13. As the two lime trees are located adjacent to the public highway; reducing any significant risk of harm must be the primary concern when considering their management.
14. If the proposed works are undertaken then the trees will lose some amenity value however with future management they will still provide a good amount of amenity to the area for years to come, once they have 'greened up' following the works.

CONCLUSION

15. The trees subject to this application are two mature lime trees and a mature sycamore tree. The trees are located on a grassed area in front of 37 – 41 Tipton Road.

16. The applicant would like to re-pollard the lime trees and crown reduce the sycamore tree by 30%.
17. On inspection the sycamore was found to have a cavity present between the main fork of the tree. The cavity does not appear related to any aggressive fungal infection and as such management by pruning is considered to be a realistic option. However due to the extent of the cavity, a significant crown reduction is required. As such the 30% crown reduction, that will serve to reduce the weight and mechanical forces that act on the fork of the tree, is considered appropriate.
18. Whilst the works will result in a smaller tree, the tree will still be prominent within the area and still provide a high amount of amenity.
19. The lime trees are old pollards that have areas of decay and bark inclusions present. Due to these defects it is recommended that the trees are re-pollarded in order to reduce the chance of any limbs dropping out onto the adjacent public highway. Whilst these works will have a detrimental impact on the amenity of the area, it is justified in view of the reduction in risk to the residents of 37-41 Tipton Road and the users of Setton Drive.

RECOMMENDATION

20. 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.