

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:P07/0192

Type of approval sought	Tree Preservation Order
Ward	Sedgley
Applicant	Mr Matt Vaughan
Location:	O/S NO 30 AND 36, GREENWAY, SEDGLEY, WEST MIDLANDS
Proposal	PRUNE 1 BEECH TREE AND FELL 1 ROBINIA TREE
Recommendation Summary:	APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO: D729 (2001) – T16 & T33

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

1. The trees subject to this application are as mature beech tree and a mature robinia tree. The trees are located either side of the entrance to Greenway Gardens on two area of highway verge.
2. The beech tree is prominent and provides a high amount of amenity to the surrounding area, whereas the robinia tree is slightly less prominent, due to its size; condition and the proximity of a larger Scots pine; and provides a low 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 Beech tree and fell 1 Robinia 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
TPO No	T16	T33
Species	Beech	Robinia
Height	11m	8m
Spread	9m	6m
Diameter	650mm	350mm
Form	Good	Poor
Vigour	Good	Poor
Approx Age	Mature	Mature
Pests / Diseases	None evident.	Honey fungus present on main stem and roots
Canopy	Moderate – old pollard	Poor
% Deadwood	1%	20%
Cavities	Slight inclusions present. Not significant at present	Extensive decay at base and cavity present in scaffold limb
Bark	Good	Poor
Roots	Good	Poor – Honey fungus
Overall Health	Good	Poor
Visibility	High	High
Amenity Value	High	Low

Further Assessment

7. The trees subject to this application are a mature beech tree and a mature robinia tree. The trees are located either side of the entrance to Greenway Gardens on a highway verge. The beech tree is prominent within the area and provides a high

amount of amenity, while the robinia is less prominent and provides only a low amount of amenity.

8. The applicant would like to prune the beech tree to give clearance from the telephone cables that run through the crown of the tree. These works would involve pruning a channel through the crown to ensure that the wires do not become entangled or damaged. The works would be minimal and have little or no impact on the tree's health or amenity. As such it is recommended that the works are approved.
9. The applicant has proposed to fell the tree because of an area of decay at the base of the tree and its general poor condition. On inspection a significant patch of missing bark and decayed stem was noted at the base of the tree along with a progressing cavity on a main scaffold limb. Also noted at this time were two strands of mycelium that indicate the presence of honey fungus.
10. If the tree is infected with honey fungus then root plate deterioration and subsequent wind throw is likely in the short to medium term. As such it is recommended that this tree is removed at the earliest opportunity.
11. Whilst the loss of this tree will have a slight detrimental impact on the amenity of the area, this is justified by the current condition of the tree, and also there are a significant amount of other mature trees in the area that will continue to provide high amenity.

CONCLUSION

12. The applicant would like to prune the beech tree subject to this application in order to provide clearance from the telephone wires that run through the canopy of the tree. The works involved will only be minimal and will not have any detrimental impact on the health of the tree or the amenity of the area. As such the works should be approved.
13. The applicant has proposed the removal of the robinia subject to this application due to its poor condition. On inspection an area of basal decay was noted and also the presence of a honey fungus infection. As such the safety of this tree has now been compromised and should be removed at the earliest opportunity.
14. The removal of the robinia would have a slight detrimental impact on the amenity of the area however this is justified due to the tree's current condition, and the planting of a replacement would serve to mitigate the loss.

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. 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.