

# **PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:P07/0065**

Type of approval sought	Tree Preservation Order
Ward	Sedgley
Applicant	Matt Vaughan, Dudley MBC
Location:	<b>7, THE WYND, DUDLEY, DY3 1PW</b>
Proposal	<b>CROWN REDUCTION BY 30% OF 1 BEECH TREE</b>
Recommendation Summary:	<b>APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS</b>

## **TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO: D730 (2002) – T13**

### **SITE AND SURROUNDINGS**

1. The tree subject to this application is a mature beech tree that is located at the side of 7 The Wynd, Dudley. The property is council owned.
2. The tree is highly prominent within the area and provides a high amount of amenity to the area.

### **PROPOSAL**

3. Summary of proposals for the works as written on application form is as follows:
  - Crown reduce 1 Beech 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	T13
Species	Beech
Height	16m
Spread	8m
Diameter	700mm
Form	Good – Old pollard
Vigour	Good
Approx Age	Mature
Pests / Diseases	None evident.
Canopy	Good – old pollard
% Deadwood	1%
Cavities	Inclusions at old pollard point
Bark	Good
Roots	Good – restricted due to adjacent surfaces
Overall Health	Good
Visibility	High
Amenity Value	High

### Further Assessment

7. The tree subject to this application is a mature Beech tree that is located at the side of 7 The Wynd, Dudley. The tree is highly visible in the location and provides a high amount of amenity to the surrounding area.
8. The applicant would like to prune the tree as a matter of good arboricultural practice. The tree was pollarded a number of years ago and has now produce a significant amount of re-growth.

9. Following the pollarding of a tree the re-growth is not as strongly attached as naturally formed growth would be. As such, if re-growth is left un-maintained the risk of the tree dropping limbs increases with time. As this tree appears to have been pollarded approximately 30 – 40 years ago, there is now a significant risk that the tree may drop limbs during times of bad weather.
10. In order to reduce the chance of the tree losing limbs during unsettled weather the applicant has proposed a crown reduction of 30%. This reduction is designed to reduce the weight and mechanical forces that are currently exerted on the main fork of the tree. Such a reduction of weight and force will substantially reduce the chance of failure.
11. The proposed work is unlikely to be detrimental to the health of the tree as the tree currently has good vigour, and is likely to be able to contend with such a reduction.
12. Also the amenity value of the tree is likely to remain unchanged, as even though the size of the tree will be reduced it will still be prominent within the area and still provide a high amount of amenity to the surrounding area.

## CONCLUSION

13. The tree subject to this application is a mature beech tree that is located at the side of 7 The Wynd, Dudley. The tree was pollarded approximately 30 – 40 years ago and has produced a substantial amount of re-growth.
14. As this re-growth is not as strongly attached to the tree as naturally formed growth would be, the chance of limb failure from an old pollard increases with time. As such the applicant has proposed to crown reduce the tree by 30% in order to reduce the weight and mechanical forces that are acting on the old pollard points.
15. On inspection it is considered that the proposals are appropriate to the tree as the reduction will serve to increase the longevity of the tree. Due to the tree's currently good vigour the works are unlikely to have a detrimental impact on the health of the tree.
16. Also the amenity value of the tree is likely to remain largely unaffected, as the tree will still be a prominent feature in the location, and will still provide a high amount of amenity to the surrounding 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.