

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:P07/0074

Type of approval sought	Tree Preservation Order
Ward	Upper Gornal & Woodsetton
Applicant	Matt Vaughan
Location:	O/S 9, EDMUND ROAD, WOODSETTON, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS
Proposal	POLLARD BEECH TREE
Recommendation Summary:	APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO: D640 (2000) – T21

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

1. The tree subject to this application is a mature beech tree that is located in the front garden of 9 Edmund Road. 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 high amount of amenity to the surrounding area.

PROPOSAL

3. Summary of proposals for the works as written on application form is as follows:
 - Pollard 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	T21
Species	Beech
Height	14m
Spread	7m
Diameter	500mm
Form	Moderate
Vigour	Moderate
Approx Age	Mature
Pests / Diseases	None evident.
Canopy	Moderate – old pollard
% Deadwood	1%
Cavities	Bulge at base an scaring on main stem is indicative of a cavity and decay progressing up the stem. Also there are a number of included forks present within the crown.
Bark	Good
Roots	Moderate – adjacent to driveway
Overall Health	Poor
Visibility	High
Amenity Value	High

Further Assessment

7. The tree subject to this application is a mature beech tree that is located in the front garden of 9 Edmund Road. The tree is an old pollard that has evidence of a cavity

and decay in the base of the main stem. Due to the trees location it provides a high amount of amenity to the surrounding area.

8. The applicant would like permission to re-pollard this tree in order to reduce the weight and mechanical forces that are currently acting on the weakened base of the tree. Such a reduction in weight would reduce the chances of the tree failing during times of high wind.
9. On inspection it was accepted that the re-pollarding of the tree would significantly reduce the chances of failure and due to the current condition of the tree, this course of action is considered appropriate.
10. This pollarding would have a detrimental impact on the amenity that the tree currently provides to the area, however as the works are dictated by the tree's current condition the loss in amenity is justified.
11. In time the tree will re-grow a canopy of sorts however this will need to be maintained so that it doesn't overload the stem of the tree. However due to the rate of growth of the tree, this shouldn't need doing until 3-5 years time.

CONCLUSION

12. The tree subject to this application is a mature beech tree that is located within the front garden of 9 Edmund Road. The tree is in a poor condition due to a cavity and decay that is present in the base of the stem.
13. The applicant would like to re-pollard the tree in order to reduce the weight and mechanical forces that are currently exerted on the weakened base of the tree. On inspection it was considered that this course of action was appropriate to the tree as its current state is potentially hazardous to the residents of the property and the adjacent highway.
14. The proposed works will have a detrimental impact on the amenity of the area. However this loss of amenity value is considered justified due to the current condition of the tree.

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.