

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: P15/0305

Type of approval sought	Tree Preservation Order
Ward	Sedgley
Applicant	Mr A. Allison, Greencare Office
Location:	52, CROSS LANE, SEDGLEY, DUDLEY, DY3 1PD
Proposal	FELL 1 PINE TREE
Recommendation Summary:	APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

1. The tree subject to this application is a mature Pine tree that is located in the front garden of 52 Cross Lane Sedgley. The tree is one of a number of mature Pine trees that are located in the area. The tree is visible in the street scene and if it had been healthy it would be considered to provide a moderate to high amount of amenity to the surrounding area.
2. The tree is protected as part of Tree 42 of TPO 729 that was served in 2001, and also following a review of the 2001 order as Tree 6 of TPO/0132/SED which was served in 2014. The TPOs protect a substantial number of other trees in the locality.

PROPOSAL

3. Summary of proposals for the works as written on application form is as follows:
 - Fell 1 Pine 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 public representations have been received.

ASSESSMENT

Tree(s) Appraisal

<i>Tree Structure</i>	Tree 1
Species	Pine
Height (m)	15m
Spread (m)	7m
DBH (mm)	650
Canopy Architecture	Good
Overall Form	Good
Age Class <i>Yng / EM / M / OM / V</i>	Mature

Structural

Assessment

Trunk / Root Collar	Good - some scarring from previous mechanical damage - not significant	
Scaffold Limbs	Good	
Secondary Branches	Good	
% Deadwood	3%	
Root Defects	None Evident	
Root Disturbance	None Evident	
Other		
Failure Foreseeable Imm / Likely / Possible / No	Whole Possible	Part Possible

Vigour Assessment

Vascular Defects	None Evident
Foliage Defects	Foliage has almost completely died, and turned brown. Analysis of needles show presence of Diplodia Dieback (<i>Sphaeropsis sapinea</i>) infection
Leaf Size	Good
Foliage Density	Rapidly Thinning
Other	

Overall Assessment

Structure	Good
Vigour	Poor
Overall Health	Poor

Other Issues

Light Obstruction	yes
Physical Damage	None Evident
Surface Disruption	None Evident
Debris	Yes

Amenity

Assessment

Visible	Yes
Prominence	High
Part of Wider Feature?	Yes
Characteristic of Area	Yes
Amenity Value	Poor in current condition (Moderate / High if it were healthy)

Further Assessment

7. The application has been submitted by the Council's Greencare department as the tree is located within a housing property. They have submitted the application to fell the tree due to its poor health.

8. The Greencare tree inspector, having received an enquiry regarding the tree has observed a sudden decline in foliage health, over the last few months. A visual inspection of the tree could not identify any potential causes of the decline in health.
9. Given the stark and almost complete decline in tree health, foliage samples were taken and sent to the Forestry Commission's pathology department, Tree Health, for analysis. The results show that the tree is suffering from a severe Diplodia Dieback (*Sphaeropsis sapinea*) fungal infection.
10. Normally such an infection will only infect the current year's growth, however, in this case the vast majority of the foliage is infected and has turned brown. Given the extent of the infection recovery is not expected.
11. It is considered that the tree will likely die within the next 1-2 years and that given its location in the front garden of a property it is recommended that the tree is felled.
12. Overall it is considered that the proposed felling of the tree is justified on the grounds of its condition. As such it is recommended that the application be approved.

CONCLUSION

13. The tree subject to this application is a Pine tree that has a severe Diplodia Dieback infection. The extent of the infection is such that recovery is not expected. To this end it is considered that the felling of the tree has been justified.
14. Overall it is considered that the proposed works are acceptable as any impact on the amenity of the area is justified by virtue of the poor health of the tree.

RECOMMENDATION

15. It is recommended that the application is APPROVED subject to the stated conditions.

Conditions and/or reasons:

1. The tree works subject of this consent shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS 3998:2010 'Recommendations for Treework'.



BEACON LANE

GREENWAY GARDENS

CROSS PLACE

CROSS LANE

221.6m

O T1

Beacon Hotel (PH)

El Sub Sta

GREENWAY

BILSTON STREET

Claremont Cottages

219.5m