

# PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:P13/1433

Type of approval sought	Tree Preservation Order
Ward	Sedgley
Applicant	Mrs E. Cox
Location:	<b>43, GOSPEL END STREET, SEDGLEY, DUDLEY, DY3 3LR</b>
Proposal	<b>FELL 1 BLUE CEDAR TREE</b>
Recommendation Summary:	<b>APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS</b>

## SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

1. The tree subject to this application is an early mature cedar tree that is located in the front garden of 43 Gospel End Street. The tree is visible as part of the street scene, especially when approaching Sedgley town centre, and is considered to provide a moderate to high amount of amenity to the surrounding area.
2. The tree is protected as Tree 1 of TPO 594 that was served in 2002.

## PROPOSAL

3. Summary of proposals for the works as written on application form is as follows:
  - Fell 1 Cedar tree.
4. The tree has been marked on the attached plan.

## HISTORY

5. There has been one previous Tree Preservation Order applications on this site.

Application No	Proposal	Decision	Date
P07/1945	Prune 1 Cedar tree.	Approved with conditions	29/11/2007

6. Given the tree's location in a conservation area the tree was protected prior to the service of the TPO. As such, it is likely that the TPO was served in response to a notification to do works under the Conservation Area process.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

7. A letter of objection has been received from an adjacent neighbour. The objection to the application is made on the following grounds:

- The tree provides visual amenity to the surrounding area;
- The applicant's do not appear to appear to have made all attempts to improve the condition of the tree;
- The tree is host to nesting birds and its removal will have an impact on the local bird population;
- The application does not clarify what disease is causing the problems, and there may be a solution;
- The removal of the tree will lead to a loss of privacy to the objector's property as the house will be more visible from the street.

## ASSESSMENT

### Tree(s) Appraisal

<i>Tree Structure</i>	<b>Tree 1</b>
TPO No	T1
Species	Cedar
Height (m)	10m
Spread (m)	7m
DBH (mm)	450mm
Canopy Architecture	Good
Overall Form	Good / Moderate - Canopy growth on north western side limited.
Age Class <i>Yng / EM / M / OM / V</i>	Mature

### *Structural Assessment*

Trunk / Root Collar	Good
Scaffold Limbs	Good
Secondary Branches	Structurally sound, poor vigour.

% Deadwood	10%	
Root Defects	None Evident	
Root Disturbance	None Evident	
Other		
Failure Foreseeable Imm / Likely / Possible / No	Whole No	Whole Possible

*Vigour Assessment*

Vascular Defects	Extensive dieback though out crown and minimal recovery growth.
Foliage Defects	None Evident
Leaf Size	Poor
Foliage Density	Poor
Other	

*Overall  
Assessment*

Structure	Good
Vigour	Poor
<b>Overall Health</b>	<b>Poor</b>

**Other Issues**

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

**Amenity  
Assessment**

Visible	Yes
Prominence	High
Part of Wider Feature?	No
Characteristic of Area	Yes
<b>Amenity Value</b>	<b>High / Moderate</b>

**Further Assessment**

8. The applicant has proposed to fell the tree due to the poor condition of the tree following a period of needle loss.
9. The needle loss was first observed by the case officer in July 2012, when the applicant made an enquiry as they were concerned about the condition of the tree. On first inspection it was noted that there had been significant needle death from the tree, and that it had a sparse and unhealthy appearance.

10. From investigating around the base of the tree no evidence of any infection was observed, and none of the adjacent plants seemed to be in distress. As such the root cause of the problem could not be identified.
11. Cedar trees can sometimes go through a period of needle loss due to climatic conditions, usually related to drought. Such periods of leaf drop are usually relatively short and healthy trees will swiftly recover. As such, during this first visit it was recommended that the tree was monitored to see if any recovery occurred.
12. Having visited the tree a number of times since then, the expected recovery did not happen, and whilst some new needles have developed they were relatively small and not extensive enough to signify a significant recovery. It is considered that the tree is currently in poor health
13. From observation it is considered that the most likely cause of the needle dieback is due to a loss of root function, rather than any external causes such as climatic conditions. It is likely that the loss of root function has been caused by fungal infection that has served to decay the roots.
14. Overall it is now considered that the tree will not make a full recovery and will remain a specimen with a poor appearance and is likely to die within the next 5 years or so. It is considered that the amenity of the area would be best served by the felling and replacement of the tree.

## **CONCLUSION**

15. It is considered that the tree is suffering from a loss of root function, probably caused by fungal infection. Overall it is considered that the tree is likely to die in the next 5 years. As such the long term amenity will be best served by the removal and replacement of the tree
16. On balance, it is considered that the application should be approved.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

17. It is recommended that application is APPROVED for the reasons 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 3998:2010 'Recommendations for Tree work'.
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 at planting shall be no less than 1.8 to 2.5 metres tall. The species and the location of the replacement tree shall be agreed in writing with the Local Planning authority prior to the felling of the trees to which this application relates.



Graveyard

T1

218.5m

The Mount

211.8m

AVINGTON CLOSE

WILKES CROFT

FEREDAY'S CROFT