

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:P07/0300

Type of approval sought	Tree Preservation Order
Ward	Norton
Applicant	P D Cook
Location:	FAIRFIELD HOUSE, QUARRY PARK ROAD, STOURBRIDGE, DY8 2RE
Proposal	FELL 6 FIR TREES, FELL 1 BEECH TREE AND POLLARD 2 BEECH TREES
Recommendation Summary:	APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO: D652 (2001) – A35

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

1. The trees subject to this application are a group of six Cypress trees and three beech trees that are situated in the front garden of Fairfield House, Quarry Park Road. The trees are located adjacent to the boundary between Fairfield House and Cedar Cottage.
2. The trees are highly visible from the adjacent road, but due to their condition and form only provide a moderate to low amount of amenity to the surrounding area.

PROPOSAL

3. Summary of proposals for the works as written on application form is as follows:
 - Fell 6 fir trees, 1 beech tree and pollard 2 beech trees.
4. The tree has been marked on the attached plan.

HISTORY

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

<i>Site History</i>		
Application No	P03/2313	08/12/03
Proposal	Fell 10 Leylandii Trees	Approved with conditions.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

6. No public representations have been received.

ASSESSMENT

Tree(s) Appraisal

Criteria	Trees 1 - 6	Tree 7	Tree 8	Tree 9
TPO No	A35	A35	A35	A35
Species	Lawson Cypress	Beech	Beech	Beech
Height	8m	9m	9m	9m
Spread	1m	3m	3m	3m
Diameter	150mm	200mm	200mm	200mm
Form	Poor – Drawn up	Moderate / Poor	Moderate / Poor	Moderate / Poor
Vigour	Moderate	Good	Good	Good
Approx Age	Mature	Early Mature	Early Mature	Early Mature
Pests / Diseases	None evident.	None Evident	None Evident	None Evident
Canopy	Poor – Drawn up	Poor	Poor	Poor
% Deadwood	1%	1%	1%	1%
Cavities	None evident	None evident	None evident	None evident
Bark	Good	Good	Good	Good
Roots	Moderate – Close to driveway	Moderate – Close to driveway	Moderate – Close to driveway	Moderate – Close to driveway
Overall Health	Good	Moderate / Good	Moderate / Good	Moderate / Good
Visibility	High	High	High	High
Amenity Value	Low	Moderate / Low	Moderate / Low	Moderate / Low

Further Assessment

7. The trees subject to this application are six Cypress trees and three beech trees that are situated in the front garden of Fairfield House, Quarry Park Road.

8. The applicant would like to fell the cypress trees and the beech tree closest to Quarry Park Road; and pollard the remaining two beech trees to 2.5 metres in height.
9. On inspection the trees were found to be in a reasonable state of health, with no major defects. However, as the trees have all grown up tightly against one another they have all developed poor forms.
10. The trees are protected by virtue of their location within an area TPO, and it is considered, and it is considered that their inclusion within this order was the result of their location rather than their value to the local area. As such if the trees were considered for a TPO based on their own amenity value, it is unlikely that they would rate high enough to warrant protection.
11. As the trees subject to this application are considered to have a low amenity value, it is considered that the removal of the six cypress and one beech; and the pollarding of the remaining two beech trees would not be detrimental to the amenity of the wider area. In fact the removal and pruning of these trees would open up a view of an adjacent Norway Maple, that has a reasonable form and is considered to have a higher amenity value than the trees subject to the application.
12. With a view to the tree's poor amenity value it is considered that the proposed works would not detract from the amenity of the area, and as such the application should be approved.

CONCLUSION

13. The trees subject to this application are six cypress trees and three beech trees. The applicant would like to fell all of the cypress trees, and the beech tree closest to Quarry Park Road; and to pollard the remaining beech trees to 2.5 metres.
14. On inspection the trees were found to be in a reasonable state of health with no major defects. However due to their form and condition they were considered to have a low amenity value, and of no particular merit to the surrounding area. As such the proposed works would not be detrimental to the wider amenity of the area. In fact the proposed works would open up a view of an adjacent Norway Maple tree, which would serve to improve the amenity of the area.

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. Replacement planting is to be undertaken in liaison with the Local Planning Authority, to permit the establishment of a beech hedge in the vicinity of the existing trees. Planting to be undertaken before the end of the planting season following the removal of the cypress trees unless otherwise agreed with the Local Planning Authority.
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.