

# PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:P13/0078

Type of approval sought	Tree Preservation Order
Ward	Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood
Applicant	Mr Ian Collinson, Mitie Landscapes Ltd
Location:	<b>BLACKBROOK VALLEY SOUTH OF SALTWELLS INN, SALTWELLS LANE, QUARRY BANK, WEST MIDLANDS</b>
Proposal	<b>FELL 1 ASH TREE</b>
Recommendation Summary:	<b>APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS</b>

## SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

1. The tree subject to this application is an early mature ash tree that is located on the boundary between the Blackbrook Valley Woodland and the car park of the Saltwells Inn. The tree is considered to provide little in the way of individual amenity as it is not a structural part of the woodland.
2. The tree is protected under Woodland 1 of TPO 552 that was served in 1998.

## PROPOSAL

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

## HISTORY

5. There have been no previous tree preservation order applications on the site.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

6. No public representations had been received at the time of writing the report. Any representations that are received prior to the committee will be included in the pre-committee notes.

## ASSESSMENT

### Tree(s) Appraisal

<i>Tree Structure</i>	<b>Tree 1</b>
Species	Ash
Height (m)	9
Spread (m)	4
DBH (mm)	300
Canopy Architecture	Good
Overall Form	Poor – Leaning
Age Class <i>Yng / EM / M / OM / V</i>	Early Mature

#### *Structural Assessment*

Trunk / Root Collar	Moderate – Leaning	
Scaffold Limbs	Good	
Secondary Branches	Good	
% Deadwood	1%	
Root Defects	None Evident	
Root Disturbance	None Evident	
Other		
Failure Foreseeable <i>Imm / Likely / Possible / No</i>	Whole Possible	Whole No

#### *Vigour Assessment*

Vascular Defects	None evident
Foliage Defects	None Evident
Leaf Size	Not In Leaf
Foliage Density	Not In Leaf
Other	

#### *Overall Assessment*

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

#### Other Issues

Light Obstruction	No
Physical Damage	None Evident

Surface Disruption	None Evident
Debris	Yes

**Amenity  
Assessment**

Visible	Yes
Prominence	Low – Part of wider woodland
Part of Wider Feature?	Yes
Characteristic of Area	Yes
<b>Amenity Value</b>	<b>Low</b>

**Further Assessment**

7. The applicant has proposed to fell the tree due to the lean over the adjacent car park, and to prevent the tree from becoming hazardous in the future.
8. On inspection the tree was found to have a near 45 degree lean over the car park. It is considered that this is most likely the result of the tree growing towards the available light; however root plate movement earlier in the life of the tree cannot be ruled out.
9. Whilst it is not considered that the tree is currently liable to fail, if left in situ as the crown weight of the tree increases the forces exerted on the main stem and root plate will become increasingly great and the centre of gravity will move further from the main stem. As such any decay in the main stem or loss of rooting volume, may lead to whole tree failure.
10. As such it is considered that the removal of the tree is acceptable in order to remove the heightened risk of failure onto the car park before it develops.
11. As there is plenty of evidence of natural re-generation in the woodland it is not considered that the planting of a replacement tree is necessary, as the woodland will readily provide a naturally occurring replacement tree.
12. Overall it is recommended that the application to fell the tree is approved.

**CONCLUSION**

13. The ash tree subject to this application has developed a near 45 degree lean over the adjacent car park. Whilst not currently liable to fail, if left in situ the increase in crown

weight that occurs as the tree grows will make the tree more susceptible to failure in the event of any decay in the main stem or root volume loss.

14. As such it is considered appropriate to remove this tree now before any hazard develops. The removal of the tree will not have any detrimental impact on the amenity value of the woodland.
15. No replacement tree will be required as natural regeneration within the woodland will soon provide a suitable alternative.

## RECOMMENDATION

16. It is recommended that the application is approved subject to the stated conditions.

### Reason for Approval

17. The ash tree has developed a lean over the adjacent car park. In time the tree will become more susceptible to failure caused by decay or rot plate loss. As such it is considered that its removal is appropriate to remove the potential hazard before it develops.

### 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'.



Black Brook

Saltwells  
Inn  
(PW)

T1

Salt Wells

Black Brook

Path

SALT ROAD

103.6m

99.7m

107.9m