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| Item | 06/00863/TPO | Consent for Tree Works |
| Case Officer | Mr Alistair Gemmell | |
| Ward | Clayton-le-Woods And Whittle-le-Woods | |
| Proposal | Crown lifting of 1 Oak tree, removal of deadwood from 1 Oak tree covered by TPO 9 (Whittle Le Woods) 1987 and felling of 1 Sycamore tree covered by TPO 3 (Whitte Le Woods) 2000, | |
| Location | Dunscar Shaw Hill Whittle-Le-Woods Chorley PR6 7PP | |
| Applicant | Mr J Ingham | |
| Proposal | This application proposes to crown lift one oak tree (identified as T1 on the submitted plan) and remove deadwood from another (T2), both of which are covered by TPO No. 9 (Whittle-le-Woods) 1987. Consent is also sought to fell one sycamore tree (SY1) covered by TPO No.3 (Whittle-le-Woods) 1985. | |
| Planning Policy | EP9 Trees and Woodlands. | |
| Planning History | None. | |
| Consultee Responses | <p>The Council's Arboricultural Officer has made the following comments on the proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trees are in good health with the exception of the oak (T2) that is in poor condition with a very sparse crown and large amount of dieback evident; • The healthy oak tree (T1) has a low, spreading canopy and the cutting back of the minor branches requested would raise the canopy without harming the shape of the tree; • The sycamore tree is multi-stemmed, probably grown from the stump of the original tree. The several 'included unions' at the base are weaknesses likely to cause problems in the future. Its removal now and replacement with something suitable would be preferable. | |
| Third Party Representations | One representation received only, from Whittle-le-Woods Parish Council. The Parish Council tree warden in agreement with works to fell the sycamore and dead wooding of the oak (T2) but not with the proposed crown lifting of the other oak. | |
| Applicant's Case | <p>The applicant has put forward the following reasons for the proposed works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falling deadwood from oak (T2) is a potential danger to passing traffic; • Removal of lower branches of oak (T1) requested as they hang low over the lawn; • Sycamore tree is pushing over dress stone wall and there is poor union between the stems. | |

Assessment

The trees form a relatively visually important and prominent feature within the street scene at the entrance to Shaw Hill Golf Course, off the main A6 (Preston Road). Among other mature trees along Preston Road they contribute to the visual amenity of the area.

The proposed works to both oak trees would not unduly impact on the outward appearance of the trees nor harm their amenity value. In the case of the oak tree where removal of dead wood is proposed, the works are advisable in the interests of safety.

The sycamore tree is currently healthy, although there are inherent weaknesses associated with its structure that will cause problems in the future. The tree is causing notable damage to the stone wall at the entrance to Shaw Hill. No objection to its removal has been received and subject to the imposition of a condition requiring a suitable replacement, it is not considered that the loss of the tree would be unduly harmful the amenity of the area due to the surrounding tree cover.

The Council's Arboricultural Officer has recommended approval of the application.

Conclusion

The proposal is recommended for conditional approval.

Recommendation: Consent for Tree Works Conditions

1. The tree works for which consent is hereby granted are as specified below only, namely:-

- Crown lifting of oak tree marked T1 on submitted location plan (received 25 July 2006), amounting to removal of three identified lower branches;
- Removal of dead wood from oak tree marked T2;
- Felling of sycamore tree identified as SY1.

Reason: To define the consent, to safeguard the appearance and health of the trees and in accordance with Policy No. EP9 of the Adopted Chorley Borough Local Plan Review.

2. Before any tree felling is carried out full details (including species, number, stature and location) of the replacement tree planting shall have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The replacement tree planting shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details within nine months of the tree felling.

Reason: To safeguard the visual amenity of the area and in accordance with Policy No. EP9 of the Adopted Chorley Borough Local Plan Review.
