

Councillor Gary Robinson

Councillor Mark Inkster

6 Community Involvement

This application was publicised in accordance with the Council's Code of Practice for Publicity of Planning Applications approved at minute 207/6/92 (as amended), as a result of which the following publicity was undertaken:

Number of neighbour notification letters sent: 14

Number of site notices: 1

Statutory advertisement: Not applicable.

Number of representations received: 2

Comment	Officer Comment
This is an attractive tree that has had of a small number of leafless ends of branches in the last few years. If the tree is in any danger of falling or of shedding branches, I would like it to be made safe.	The Arboricultural Officer has confirmed that the tree has Ash dieback disease
Hopefully the Ash Die Back will be independently confirmed as this resident looks for any excuse to decimate trees, even those on preservation orders!	The Arboricultural Officer has confirmed that the tree has Ash dieback disease

7 Planning Considerations

7.1 Having regard to the relevant policies of the development plan it is considered that the main issues arising from this application are:

- Whether the degree of pruning works requested would undermine the amenity value of these trees and whether this could also be harmful to their ongoing health and vitality.

7.2 My inspection related specifically to assessing the proposed works rather than generally inspecting the tree's health and condition in any great detail. I visually inspected the tree from ground level and the following report deals with the relevant issues that have been raised on site, in the application form and from my site observations.

7.3 This application to undertake work to a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order relates to the proposed felling of one Ash tree located in the rear garden of the property, and close to the rear boundary.

The application to fell is based on the condition of the tree in that it is infected with Chalara (Ash dieback disease).

This application follows an application to crown lift the tree which was permitted in October 2021. Ash Dieback was noted on the application then and upon inspection by the Arboricultural Officer it was confirmed that the tree is showing reduced vigour and vitality and clear signs of Ash Dieback disease. The tree will have a limited safe useful life expectancy and therefore it should be removed and replaced given the high target area should the tree fail in the future.

8 **Conclusion**

The felling proposed is necessary and justified given that the tree will continue to decline and become brittle and a potential hazard to garden users. A replacement tree will be conditioned to be planted.

9 **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Head of Neighbourhood Support be authorised to **GRANT TPO CONSENT** for application APP/21/01230

(A)

(B) for the following reasons/subject to the following conditions

1 The tree works for which consent is hereby granted shall not be carried out otherwise than in full accordance with all relevant content of BS 3998 (2010).
Reason: In the interests of tree health and safety.

2 The tree works for which consent is hereby granted shall be carried out and completed no later than one year from the date of this decision notice.

Reason: To control the timing of the works

- 3 In the first planting season following the date of felling; 1 replacement tree is planted. The tree should be a minimum 1.5 metres tall at the time of planting and should comply with BS3936:Part 1:1992. It should be planted in the same place or within 2m of the tree to be removed. It should also be selected from the following species:

1. Ginkgo biloba (Maidenhair)
2. Betula pendula (Silver Birch)

or such other size, species, location or period of time as may be agreed in writing with the Council.

If within a period of three years any tree planted as a replacement is cut down, felled, uprooted, removed, or die, or becomes in the opinion of the Council seriously damaged or defective:

- a) the Council shall be notified as soon as is reasonably practicable; and
- b) another tree of the same species and size shall be planted in the same location at a time agreed in writing with the Council unless the Council agrees to dispense with or vary the requirement.

Reason: To conserve and safeguard the visual amenities of the locality.