

DELEGATED DECISION CHECKLIST AND REPORT

APPLICATION NO.	CASE OFFICER	DATE
23/00314/WTTPO	Chelsea Petrillo	31 August 2023

Address: 37 Birchfield Drive Rochdale OL11 4NY

Proposal: Application for Works to trees covered by TPO036
T1, T2 and T3 (Beech Trees) - Removal of branches up to 4"

PUBLICITY	Weekly list expired?	N/A	Site notice expired?	N/A
	Neighbour letters expired?	N/A	Press Notice expired?	N/A

DELEGATION	Significant departure from local plan?	N	Contrary to national policy?	N
	Applicant a Council Member or officer?	N	Contrary to previous decision?	N
	Major with 10 or more objections and recommending approval?	N	Called in or Planning Panel objection?	N

COMMENTS	Planning Panel comments received?	N
	Neighbour comments received?	N

EIA	Screening opinion completed and saved to Onbase?	N
------------	--	---

CONDITIONS	Pre-commencement conditions proposed?	N
	Pre-commencement conditions agreed (or notification period expired)?	N/A

RECOMMENDATION	GRANT Subject to Standard Conditions
-----------------------	---

CHECKED AND SIGNED OFF BY: TH **DATE:** 08/09/2023

SITE

The application relates to a three Beech trees located sited within designated protected existing recreational openspace in the former grounds of High Birch School and close to the rear boundary fence of 37 Birchfield Drive in the Bamford ward of Rochdale.

PROPOSAL

The proposal seeks consent for the removal of the tree branches up to 4" diameter to reduce overhang and allow light into the rear garden of 37 Birchfield Drive.

RELEVANT PLANNING POLICY

National Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

Adopted Rochdale Core Strategy (CS):

G7 – Increasing the value of biodiversity and geodiversity

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

None applicable.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Tree Officer

Yes, justified in the interests of good arboriculture management

REPRESENTATIONS

In accordance with council policy on neighbour notification for this type of application, no letters of notification were sent to neighbouring properties.

ANALYSIS

In considering applications for works to protected trees, Government advice in paragraph 90 of the NPPG states:

"When considering an application the authority is advised to:

- assess the amenity value of the tree or woodland and the likely impact of the proposal on the amenity of the area;*
- consider, in the light of this assessment, whether or not the proposal is justified, having regard to the reasons and additional information put forward in support of it;*
- consider whether any loss or damage is likely to arise if consent is refused or granted subject to conditions;*
- consider whether any requirements apply in regard to protected species;*
- consider other material considerations, including development plan policies where relevant; and*
- ensure that appropriate expertise informs its decision."*

In considering whether there has to be an arboricultural need for proposed works to a TPO, paragraph 91 of the NPPG states:

"In general terms, it follows that the higher the amenity value of the tree or woodland and the greater any negative impact of proposed works on amenity, the stronger the reasons needed before consent is granted. However, if the amenity value is lower and the impact is likely to be negligible, it may be appropriate to grant consent even if the authority believes there is no particular arboricultural need for the work."

With regard to the above, the main considerations in respect of this application are whether the proposal for works to the tree is justified in light of the assessment of the amenity value of the tree and whether the reasons for works are of sufficient standing to warrant the granting of consent.

To assess the acceptability of the proposal against the above considerations, the Council's Tree Officer has been consulted. The Officer raised no objections to the application on Arboriculture grounds. The works are justified on the grounds of avoidance of harm to 37 Birchfield Drive and in the interest of good arboriculture practice.

RECOMMENDATION

GRANT Subject to Standard Conditions

Notes for Applicant:

For the avoidance of doubt, this Decision Notice relates to the following drawings / document(s):-

- Mini Tree Report (Date 27.03.2023)
- Location Plan
- Photo 1
- Photo 2

Report Author Chelsea Petrillo