

DECISION CHECKLIST AND REPORT

APPLICATION NO.	CASE OFFICER	DATE
23/00915/WTTPPO	Bob Melling	15 th February 2024

Address: 1144 Manchester Road, Rochdale, OL11 2XX

Proposal: Application for works to 4 trees protected by Tree Preservation Order No. 48, comprising of T1 - Sorbus to be crown reduced 2-3m; T2 - Holly to be reduced 2-3m; T3 - Ash to be felled due to ash dieback and T4 - Ash to be felled due to ash dieback.

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

RECOMMENDATION	GRANT SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS
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CHECKED AND SIGNED OFF BY: RC

DATE: 20/05/24

SITE

The application relates to 2 Ash trees, 1 Holly tree and 1 Sorbus tree within the private rear garden of no. 1144 Manchester Road in Castleton.

PROPOSAL

The proposal seeks consent for the crown reduction of T1 (Sorbus), reduction of T2 (Holly) and the felling of T3 and T4 (Ash).

RELEVANT PLANNING POLICY

National Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – February 2019

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

Adopted Rochdale Core Strategy (CS):

G7- Increasing the value of biodiversity and geodiversity

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

N/A

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Tree Officer

I'd raise no objections to this application.

The felling of the Ash trees is justified because of poor tree health (Ash die-back disease is unfortunately endemic in the area), and the pruning works are justified in the interests of reasonable tree management and responsible tree ownership. The trees could withstand the extent of pruning which is proposed.

There is some space for replanting to replace the Ash, but given that this is essentially garden space I would not consider re-planting with high forest trees appropriate to the location. I'd advise a smaller tree such as Amelanchier.

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:

- ② assess the amenity value of the tree or woodland and the likely impact of the proposal on the amenity of the area;*
- ② 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;*
- ② consider whether any loss or damage is likely to arise if consent is refused or granted subject to conditions;*

- ② *consider whether any requirements apply in regard to protected species;*
- ② *consider other material considerations, including development plan policies where relevant; and*
- ② *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 Tree Officer has noted that the felling of the Ash trees is justified because of poor tree health and the pruning works are justified in the interests of reasonable tree management and responsible tree ownership.

To compensate for the loss of the Ash trees, it is recommended that replacement trees are planted. It is considered appropriate to apply the standard requirement for a 2:1 replacement ratio. The Tree Officer has advised the use of smaller trees to replace the Ash, such as Amelanchier.

Subject to the suggested conditions, the application proposal is therefore considered to be compliant with the guidance contained within the NPPG noted above, and the application is recommended for approval.

GMEU standing advice on tree works and protected species will be attached to the decision notice and therefore the obligations in respect of protected species will have been met.

RECOMMENDATION

GRANT Subject to Four Standard Conditions and the following additional condition:

5. Within the next planting season after the felling of the trees hereby approved, a minimum of four replacement trees shall be planted within the site in

accordance with details that have first been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. If the replacement trees are removed, die, become severely damaged or seriously diseased within three years of planting, they shall be replaced by trees of similar size and species.

Reason: To mitigate for the loss of the existing trees and to protect the visual amenity of the area.

Notes for Applicant:

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

- Application Form dated 17/08/2023
- Location Plan
- Tree Photographs

Report Author Bob Melling