South Tyneside Council

Reference:	ST/0572/24/TPOW
Location:	201 Sunderland Road South Shields NE34 6AQ
Ward:	Harton
Description:	Application for Tree Works: Works to Trees Subject to a Tree Preservation Oder (TPO). Sycamore crown lift - highway to 6m to allow free passage for vehicles, garden side to 5m and a crown reduction to 2m to reduce and rebalance.
Recommendation:	Refuse Permission
Case Officer:	Drewe Russell
Case Officer Contact No.:	0191 4247445 or 07765649865

Description of the Site and Proposal

The application relates to 201 Sunderland Road.

The application site is a terraced property located in South Shields and the tree the subject of this application is a Sycamore.

The application seeks to crown lift the proposed tree, specifically to crown lift to 6m over the Sunderland Road highway to allow at least a 6m gap for passage for vehicles, to crown lift to 5m over the garden side of the property and a crown reduction to 2m to reduce and rebalance. Justification submitted by the applicant states that the tree is a highways risk.

Summary of Consultation Responses

Tree Team

> Normally, we aim to maintain 5.2m clearance from ground level above the highway, the sycamore looks well clear of the highway in my estimation, it is certainly clear of the garden and dwelling. I'm not persuaded a further crown reduction of 2 metres is needed at all, that seems quite pointless.
>
> If works become necessary to clear the highway, we can of course grant permission for this.
>
> I'm going to recommend this application should be refused, I'm afraid, I can't see any good reason for the works proposed at this time. In this respect, the application appears contrary to the British standard 3889:2010 *Tree work – recommendations*.

I would add the application sycamore is very important in terms of amenity and landscape visual impact.

Relevant planning policy

The following policies are relevant to this application:

- LDF Policy DM1
- NPPF Part 15

Assessment

Trees and landscaped features make a significant contribution to the character and appearance of the urban area and to nature conservation. Trees in parks and public open spaces, in private gardens and grounds and on streets and highways are all significant in this respect. Many of the important groups of trees are protected by tree preservation orders (TPOs).

LDF Policy DM1 seeks to protect existing soft landscaping, including trees and hedges, where possible or provides replacement planting where necessary.

It is therefore considered that the main issues in this instance relate to whether there is sufficient justification for the proposed works to the protected trees and the impact of the proposed works on the amenity of the area. Having regard to the Tree Team's comments, in this case, the proposals and the works are deemed unacceptable in the interests of good arboricultural practice and in terms of their impact on the amenity of the area. As a result, the scheme would not accord with objectives outlined in relevant planning policies and guidance.

Recommendation

Refuse Permission

1. It is considered the proposed works would have a detrimental effect on the appearance of the application tree and the amenity of the area. It is not considered that the application provides a sufficiently clear and robust justification for works to take place. The proposals are therefore considered contrary to South Tyneside Local Development Framework Policy DM1(C) and Paragraph 180 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Case officer: Drewe Russell

Signed: DR

Date: 10/12/2024

Authorised Signatory: G.Horsman

Date: 18/12/2024