

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To : Caroline Pulley
From : Landscape Architect
Ask for : Tom Bramley
Ext. : 6276

Date : 5th June 2019

SUBJECT: 2, Plymouth House, Milbourne Terrace, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 0UL

A tree report has been produced covering the grounds of the above property in connection with the development of the garden for four residential units. The application affects all six trees two of which are covered by a tree preservation order as a group TPO. The report proposes the felling of four Sycamore trees in the group (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) which are not part of the TPO and provides an assessment of two Beech trees that are intended to be retained (both *Fagus sylvatica*).

The content of the report is somewhat cursory; it provides justification for the felling of the four Sycamore as being required to facilitate the development of the site, while failing to consider their amenity value. The remaining aspects of the report concern the two Beech trees which are to be retained, following proposed arboricultural work intended to reduce the crown of each.

It would have been helpful if the report had provided more detailed information for all the trees; thereby expanding the justification of the works which appears to be based solely on facilitating development. The report submitted does not address the following:

- Trunk diameter measured at 1.5m above ground level (DBH)
- Branch spread in metres, measured from trunk to outer edges of the crown in north, east, south, and west directions
- Height to lowest branch above ground level
- Category grading according to BS5837, section 4.5

The locations of all the trees and their canopy spreads should be accurately drawn (to the nearest 0.5m) on a scaled plan of the site.

A Tree Constraints Plan would help to determine the development layout to be created around the trees while providing adequate clearance.

For the trees proposed to be retained, it would be advisable to place protective fencing around at the outer edge of the canopy (assuming

the canopy has not been cut back) as a minimum distance from the trunk. For trees with narrow canopies or trees which have been cut back, very old trees and trees covered by a TPO the root protection area should be calculated according to BS5837:2012 with consideration for growing environment and any existing root obstructions.

The soil level should not be altered within the Root Protection Area as this is also damaging to the roots and detrimental to the survival of the tree.

The removal of trees in order facilitate development is to the detriment of the local environment. There are very few mature / semi mature trees in the local area and the removal of the four Sycamore would have a negative effect on the local area both in terms of visual amenity, wildlife habitat and in terms of the moderating effect they currently have on micro climate and trapping of airborne pollutants.

The developers would be advised to produce an accurate survey of the extent of the existing tree cover on the site and from that produce a tree constraints plan; before pursuing an application for development. It is likely that even with the removal of the four sycamore trees as proposed and works carried out to the remaining beech there would be significant dis-benefit to the remaining trees and landscape character.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended therefore that in its current form the proposed development should be refused.

Tom Bramley – Landscape Architect