

DELEGATED REPORT

Application No: P/21/0171

Site Address: St Mary's RC Church
The Priory
Pontmorlais West
Merthyr Tydfil

Development: Reduce height of 6 pine trees by 20% and thin their canopies by 20%. Reduce the canopy of the small leaved lime by 25%

Case Officer: Caroline Pulley

Site Visit:

Application Expiry Date: 6th July 2021

Consultation reply date expired:

APPLICATION SITE

The application site relates to a number of protected trees located within the grounds of St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, a Grade II Listed Building situated within the Morgantown Conservation Area. The 6 pine trees are prominently located to the front of the church, alongside the eastern boundary. The lime tree is positioned to the rear of the church and is visible from the highway of Pontmorlais West.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The application site is forms part of woodland covered by Tree Preservation Order (TPO/1975/005) at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church situated off Brecon Road in Merthyr Tydfil. This application seeks permission to reduce the height of 6 pine trees by 20% and thin their canopies by 20%. It also seeks to reduce the canopy of a small leaved lime by 25%. Photographs of the trees have been provided as part of the application.

CONSULTATION

Council's Landscape Architect: Advises that a Tree Health Report has not been submitted to demonstrate what the effect of the crown reduction might have on the health of the trees or whether there is good justification for the crown reduction in the interest of prolonging the life of the trees. Also advises that it would be helpful if additional information could be provided to illustrate what the effect of the crown reduction might be in terms of visual landscape change.

Council's Arboriculturalist:

Advises that the proposal seeks to carry out minimal works to increase the lifespan of the trees and their contribution to the area. It is highlighted that the works are required to mitigate the risk of the trees upon members of the public.

PUBLICITY

Not applicable for this type of application.

POLICY CONTEXT

National Policy

The Future Wales – the National Plan 2040 sets out a strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system, including sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, achieving decarbonisation and climate-resilience, developing strong ecosystems and improving the health and well-being of our communities.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 11 (February 2021) sets out the land use policies of the Welsh Government. The most relevant paragraph is:

Paragraph 6.4.27 states '*The protection and planting of trees and hedgerows should be delivered, where appropriate, through locally specific strategies and policies, through imposing conditions when granting planning permission, and/or by making Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)*'

Technical Advice Note (TAN) 10: Tree Preservation Orders (1997)

Section A32 in relation to section 211 T CPA 1990.

Local Policy

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) 2016-2031:

Policy SW11 – Sustainable design and Placemaking

Policy CW1 - Historic Environment

Policy EnW1 – Nature Conservation and Ecosystem Resilience

Policy EnW2 – Internationally and Nationally Protected Sites and Species

Policy EnW3 – Regionally Important Geological Sites, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, Local Nature Reserves and Priority Habitats and Species

Policy EnW4 – Environmental Protection

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

As mentioned earlier, this application seeks to reduce the height of 6 pine trees by 20% and thin their canopies by 20%. It also seeks to reduce the canopy of a small leaved lime by 20%. This application has come forward following discussions with the Council's Arboriculturalist who has advised that the works are of a minor nature and are necessary to maintain the health and longevity of the trees whilst also ensuring the safety of members of the public. While it is noted that the Council's Landscape Architect has

suggested that a tree health report should be submitted, the Council's Arboriculturalist has advised that he has assessed the health of the trees and is satisfied that the proposed works are justified. He has also highlighted that the proposed works will help to increase the lifespan of the trees, which in turn will help to ensure that the trees continue to provide a contribution to the surrounding area. Taking this into account, the proposed works are deemed acceptable.

RECOMMENDATION: BE APPROVED

INFORMATIVES

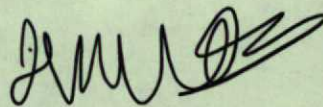
1. All bats and their roosts are protected against disturbance under UK and European legislation. If works are planned on a building/tree in which bats are found to be roosting, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) must be contacted. They must be given reasonable time to advise as to whether the works should be carried out and, if so, the method to be used.

If work has already commenced and bats are found, or if any evidence that bats are using the site as a roost is found, work should cease and NRW should be contacted immediately.

2. All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) while they are breeding. Works to any trees, hedgerows and other suitable nesting bird habitat which are to be removed or pruned as part of the proposal should only be carried out outside the bird breeding season. The bird breeding season typically extends between March to August inclusive.

If any vegetation removal or site clearance works are scheduled to commence in the bird nesting season it is advised that the advice from an Ecologist is sought. Any active nests will need to be protected until the young have fledged.

RECOMMENDATION ENDORSED



Head of Town Planning

DATE:

22/06/21