

**REPORT FROM: PLANNING, BUILDING CONTROL & LICENSING SERVICES  
MANAGER**

**TO: WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

**Report Author: Lee Johnson**  
**Tel. No: 01282 661729**  
**E-mail: lee.johnson@pendle.gov.uk**

**Application for Works to Protected Trees – St. Michael’s Church, Bracewell**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To grant permission for the removal of protected trees at St Michael’s Church, Bracewell as follows

- Removal of 1 lime and 2 sycamores, 10 metres west of the main entrance.
- Removal of 2 ash on the north west corner of the site.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Grant permission for the removal of the trees with the dispensation to not replace the trees.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- (1) Preserve the boundary wall of the Grade I listed building.
- (2) Prevent the boundary wall becoming a greater hazard.
- (3) Preserve the footpath adjacent to the highway.

**ISSUE**

1. Along the boundary of St. Michael’s Church, Bracewell are a group of trees. The roots of the trees are causing damage to the wall and in some places causing it to collapse.
2. The trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO/NO1/1969). A consent notice must be issued before any works can be carried out on the trees.
3. A report from an independent structural engineer was submitted along with the application that confirms the tree roots are the cause of damage to the wall.
4. The removal of the trees would have an impact on the character of the grounds surrounding the Grade I listed church.

5. The trees were inspected by the Principal Environment Officer and were found to be in good health. However, it is apparent that the tree roots are the cause of the damage to the wall.
6. Carrying out works to retain the trees and rebuild the wall would be extortionately costly and are likely to be detrimental to the longevity of the trees.
7. The proposed work is:
  - Removal of 1 lime and 2 sycamores, 10 metres west of the main entrance.
  - Removal of 2 ash on the north west corner of the site.
8. The application stipulates that there is an intention to plant 5 replacement trees in consultation with the Council. The Principal Environment Officer looked at the site and could not find a suitable location where trees could be planted. The roots of new trees would eventually impinge on graves or cause similar problems in the future.
9. It is likely that other existing trees are going to cause the same issue in future years and similar work would be needed.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** Pendle Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy – ENV1, Protecting and Enhancing Our Natural and Historic Environments

**Financial:** None

**Legal:** None

**Risk Management:** None

**Health and Safety:** None

**Sustainability:** None

**Community Safety:** The footpath adjacent to highway is closed due to the risk of falling stone. This means that pedestrians have to walk out on to a country lane.

**Equality and Diversity:**

**APPENDICES:** None

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS :** None