

REPORT FROM: PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
REGULATORY SERVICES MANAGER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER

TO: WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE

DATE: 8th JUNE, 2021

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TREES AT KLONDYKE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To decide the application to remove protected trees adjacent to the highway on Earby Road, Salterforth.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the application to remove the trees.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To reduce the risk of harm, damage or incident within an area of high occupancy.

ISSUE

1. The application relates to three Ash trees in the ownership of Pendle Borough Council located adjacent to Earby Road, Salterforth (sometimes referred to as Klondyke). The trees are also protected by Tree Preservation Order (TPO/NO1/2000). The trees had been surveyed in 2019.
2. When organising tree risk management work the Principal Environment Officer noted that the trees condition had deteriorated further and were showing signs of Ash Dieback. As such the officer emailed Councillors with the intention of removing the trees under a 5 day notice. The cost of removal was quoted at £2,200.
3. The issue was discussed at the February meeting of West Craven Area Committee where it was resolved that remedial work highlighted in the 2019 report be carried out and that a second report was obtained. The cost of carrying out the remedial work was £1,800. The additional report was carried out at no cost to the Council as our contractor is in the process of surveying our medium priority sites as part of our ongoing tree risk management processes. This survey was carried out in February.

4. The report agrees with the findings of the Principal Environment Officer and recommends the removal of the trees. As the imminent risk of failure has been reduced by carrying out the remedial work the Principal Environment Officer submitted an application to remove the trees through the normal TPO process. The report and application can be found in appendix 1.
5. As the Council is applying to itself, as the Local Planning Authority, the Area Committee must make the decision on the application.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy:

The Council is obliged to keep trees it owns in a safe condition.

Financial:

Removal of the trees is quoted at £2,200.

Legal:

The Council has a duty to protect people and property from injury or harm under the Occupiers Liability Act 1957 and Occupiers Liability Act 1984;

The protection of trees by Tree Preservation Order and the process for carrying out work to protected trees are laid in the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 which amended Part VIII of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Risk Management:

The removal of the trees will reduce the risk of the trees causing serious harm or damage in line with our Tree Risk-Benefit Management Plan.

Health and Safety:

None

Sustainability:

None

Community Safety:

None

Equality and Diversity:

None

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Application form and supporting documents.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minutes of West Craven Area Committee - February 2021