DELEGATED REPORT

Recommendation Made: 20 July 2011

Reference:- 11/00429/TPO **Parish:- Burbage Parish Council**

Applicant:- Mr Steve Nichols
1G Welbeck Avenue
Burbage
Hinckley
Leicestershire

Location:- 1G Welbeck Avenue Burbage Hinckley Leicestershire LE10 2JH

Proposal:- REMOVAL OF SCOTS PINE

Introduction:-

This application seeks approval for the removal of a Scots Pine tree located within the grounds of Sketchley House, Watling Street, Burbage, on the rear boundary of No. 1G Welbeck Avenue, Burbage. The tree forms part of the Burbage (Sketchley House) Tree Preservation Order 1975 and is not within the ownership of the applicant.

The reasons for removal are due to the poor shape and form of the tree and the proximity of the stem to the fence and surrounding trees forcing the Pine to lean towards No. 1G Welbeck Avenue.

Supporting information has been submitted with the application from The Borough Council's Arboriculturalist.

Consultations:-

Burbage Parish Council have no objections to the application.

At the time of writing the report no comments have been received from:-

The Borough Council's Arboriculturalist
Ward Members.

Development Plan Policies:-

No Policies.

Appraisal:-

The main considerations in the determination of this application are the health and safety of the tree and the impact on the visual amenity of the Area Tree Preservation Order.

The Scots Pine tree is in a very poor condition with some die back in the Crown. The adjacent Sycamore trees, which are far superior specimens, are overcrowding the Pine and causing it to lean towards No. 1G Welbeck Avenue. The removal of the Pine would be beneficial to the surrounding trees, allowing them to grow more freely. It is considered that the Sycamore and Lime trees have far more merit and amenity value than the Scots Pine. The current poor condition of the Pine is impacting on the visual amenity of this important group of trees and therefore, it is considered that it's loss would not have a detrimental impact, in fact, it would enhance the existing appearance of the surrounding area and allow the remaining species to grow to their full potential.

The application is therefore recommended for approval.

Recommendation:- Consent to carry out work to tree(s) protected by a Tree Preservation Order subject to the following conditions:-

1 Works are limited to the removal of the Scots Pine only.

2 All works shall be carried out in accordance with British Standards 3998 - 'Works to Trees'.

Reasons :-

1 To retain the visual amenity of the surrounding area.

2 To ensure that the works are carried out in a satisfactory manner.

Notes to Applicant:-

1 It is a criminal offence to damage or destroy a bat roost. Therefore, if the tree is mature and has hollow cavities and / or is covered with ivy, or has suitable places in which bats might roost, we recommend that it be surveyed for bats before any work is carried out to the tree. All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act. We recommend that work to trees is done outside the bird-nesting season - i.e between the end of August and beginning March. If work to the tree is to be undertaken during the bird breeding season, we recommend that a suitably qualified ecologist surveys the tree for nesting birds. If nesting birds are present, work must be postponed until the young have left the nest.

2 This permission does not give authority to enter onto land not within the ownership of the applicant.

Contact Officer:- Debbie Phillips Ext 5603