**DELEGATED REPORT**

**Recommendation Made: 14 October 2011**

**Reference:- 11/00604/TPO** **Parish:- Groby Parish Council**

**Applicant:- Mr Peter Hammond**
**7 Spinney Close**
**Groby**
**Leicester**
**Leicestershire**

**Location:- 7 Spinney Close Groby Leicester Leicestershire LE6 0BY**

**Proposal:- REMOVAL OF SYCAMORE (MARKED T1) AND WORKS TO TWO TREES (MARKED T2 AND T3)**

**Introduction:-**

This application seeks approval for the removal of one Sycamore tree (T1) with works to one Oak tree (T3) and one Ash tree (T2) which are sited to the front of the property whereas the Sycamore is located within the rear garden of 7 Spinney Close, Groby.

Relevant Planning History: -

05/00988/TPO - Works to Trees - Planning Permission - 17.11.2005

**Consultations:-**

The Borough Council's Tree Officer has replied saying that T1 Sycamore is of a very poor form and appearance, which has previously been topped with minimal public amenity value. Replanting of a more suitable species would be recommended.

T2 Ash is a twin-stemmed, middle-aged tree, 5m. from the house, previously reduced with dense, thin regenerated shoots. Current dimensions are 13m. height and 12m. crown spread with branches spreading to the house. Crown thinning as specified will help create a better branch structure.

T3 is a middle-aged Oak positioned 3.5m. from the house and overhanging the roof. This should be limited to 4m. above highway level. Crown thinning will allow more filtered light through the canopy and shortening of branches to clear the house by 2m. is necessary.

**Development Plan Policies:-**

No Policies.

**Appraisal:-**

The Sycamore tree, Oak tree and Ash tree within this application form part of the Groby (Glebe Farm) Tree Preservation Order 1975.

The main considerations with regards to this application is whether the proposed works will have a detrimental effect on the health and visual appearance of the tree and the surrounding area.

Upon inspection of the Oak tree (T3) and Ash tree (T2) it appears that the trees are in good health and add significantly to the surrounding area. However it is clear that some maintenance work would be beneficial to the trees to help maintain the visual amenity value and the future health of the trees.

Upon inspection of the Sycamore tree (T1) you can clearly see that this is a poor specimen of Sycamore which due to is location to the rear of the property it is not visibly prominent from the street scene. Replanting would be recommended in this instance.

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

1 Works to be limited to the removal of one Sycamore tree (T1) only.

2 Works to be limited to the 20% crown reduction and 10-15% thinning of the Ash tree (T2) and 20% thinning of the canopy of the Oak tree (T3)

3 The Sycamore tree shall be replaced by a species with more limited crown spread at maturity of Sorbus aucuparia "Sheerwater Seedling" (Rowan), Acer campestre "Streetwise" (Field maple) or Carpinus betulus "Frans Fontaine" (Hornbeam) during the first planting season after the removal of the tree unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

4 All works shall be carried out in accordance with British Standards 3998 - "Works to Trees"

**Reasons :-**

1 To maintain the visual amenity of the surrounding area.

2 To maintain the visual amenity of the surrounding area.

3 To maintain the visual appearance of the surrounding area.

4 To ensure all works are carried out in a satisfactory manor.

**Notes to Applicant:-**

1 Bats, nesting birds, great crested newts and certain other species are protected by law. If any such species are discovered before or during the works the works must be suspended and the local office of Natural England contacted for advice.

2 This permission does not grant approval under the Building Act 1984 and the Building Regulations 2000 (as amended) for which a separate application may be required. You are advised to contact the Building Control Section.

3 As from 6 April 2008 this Authority are charging for the discharge of conditions in accordance with revised fee regulations which came into force on that date. Application forms to discharge conditions and further information can be found on the planning portal web site www.planningportal.gov.uk.

4 All works within the limits of the Highway with regard to the access shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Southern Area Manager (0116 3052202).

**Contact Officer:- Joanne Orton Ext 5666**