

**PLANNING COMMITTEE****28<sup>TH</sup> May 2012****TPO12/029 - Application to fell Chestnut Tree at 49 Park Road, Hagley**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
Ward(s) Affected	Hagley
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	Steve Collella, Chris Scurrall
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 An application has been received to fell a mature Horse Chestnut tree located within the rear garden of 49 Park Road, Hagley
- 1.2 The tree is covered by Tree Preservation Order (1) 1971. Although in a deteriorating condition, the tree is not considered to be dead or dangerous at this time and so Committee approval is required.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That approval is granted subject to replacement planting.

**3. KEY ISSUES****3.1 The Tree & its Condition**

- 3.1.1 The tree is a mature Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) located in the left hand corner of the rear garden of 45 Park Road with the canopy significantly overhanging the gardens of 47 Park Road and 1, 2 & 3 Oldfields.
- 3.1.2 The overall physiological condition of the tree appears to be good with vigorous growth, good branch extension and a healthy canopy.
- 3.1.3 Unfortunately, the trunk and major limbs are showing the results of a significant infection with a fungal pathogen known as Chestnut Bleeding Canker. This infects the tree through wounds and then spreads up and down infected limbs causing death of the bark of the tree.
- 3.1.4 Many Chestnut trees are able to detect the fungal pathogen and modify the chemical and physical composition of their wood and bark to limit the spread of infection. This is the case with this tree but the reaction has been too late to avoid leaving large open wounds and resulting in infection of the structural timber by other fungi which are causing internal decay of the trunk and major limbs.
- 3.1.5 The majority of the decay appears to be at an early stage but will now continue relatively unchecked and cause cubicle rot within these limbs leaving them brittle and increasingly at risk of sudden failure.

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3.1.6 Although the remaining wood appears in good condition and the tree is vigorous and in good physiological condition, the rate of decay of the heartwood of the tree is unlikely to be adequately compensated by the formation of new, disease-resistant wood on the outside of the limbs and so the tree will become increasingly hazardous.

**3.2 The Proposal**

3.2.1 The proposal is to fell the tree within the next few months before the decay becomes more extensive so that the risk of injury to local residents and damage to property is minimised.

3.2.2 Given the extent of infection and decay, I recommend Approval of the application in the interests of safety subject to a condition requiring the planting of a replacement Chestnut tree in a similar location within 12 months of the felling.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Photographs of tree  
Appendix 2 - Site Location Plan

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Copy of Application

**7. KEY**

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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Appendix 1 – Photographs of Chestnut Tree



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**Appendix 2 – Site Location Plan**

