**Committee Report** 

| Application No:               | TREE/17/024                                |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Case Officer                  | Chris Redfern                              |
| <b>Date Application Valid</b> | 28 February 2017                           |
| Applicant                     | Mrs Geddes                                 |
| Site:                         | Moorside                                   |
|                               | Barmoor Lane                               |
|                               | Ryton Central                              |
|                               | Ryton                                      |
|                               | NE40 3AN                                   |
| Ward:                         | Ryton Crookhill And Stella                 |
| Proposal:                     | Tree works at Moorside Barmoor Lane Ryton. |
| Recommendation:               | NO OBJECTION                               |
| Application Type              | Conservation Area Tree Works Licence       |

# 1.0 The Application:

- 1.1 The application relates to an Ash tree in the rear garden and two large shrubs located in the front garden. Trees in a conservation area that are not protected by a Tree Preservation Order are protected by the provisions in section 211 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. These provisions require people to notify the local planning authority, using a 'section 211 notice', 6 weeks before carrying out the work. This notice period gives the authority an opportunity to consider whether to make an Order on the tree.
- 1.2 The application is to be considered by the Committee as the application site is Councillor Geddes' home.

#### 1.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE APPLICATION

The applicant proposes to reduce the canopy of the Ash tree back to the previous pruning point (approximately 30% of the canopy will be removed). The applicant also proposes to reduce, reshape and balance the two large shrubs located in the front garden

#### 1.4 RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

There is no planning history

# 2.0 Consultation responses

Not Applicable

## 3.0 Representations:

3.1 No publicity is undertaken for this type of application.

### 4.0 Policies:

NPPF National Planning Policy Framework

#### CS18 Green Infrastructure/Natural Environment

ENV44 Wood/Tree/Hedge Protection/Enhancement

## 5.0 Assessment of the Proposal:

5.1 When considering applications for works to protected trees the assessment is made on the basis of the amenity value of the trees and the likely impact of the proposal on the amenity of the area. In the light of this assessment it is then necessary to consider whether or not the proposal is justified, having regard to the reasons put forward in support of the works by the applicant. In general terms the higher the amenity values of the trees and the greater the impact of the application on the amenity of the area, the stronger the reasons need to be for consent to be granted.

#### 5.2 PROPOSED TREE WORKS

#### 5.3 Ash tree T1

The canopy is to be reduced by 30%, reshaped and lifted

#### 5.4 REASON FOR THE PROPOSAL

The tree is a multi-stemmed specimen, each limb has developed included bark close to the base of the tree. The proposal is to make the tree safe.

### 5.5 PROPOSED TREE WORKS

# 5.6 Group of shrubs T2

The shrubs are to be reduced and the canopies balanced evenly

## 5.7 REASON FOR THE PROPOSAL

The shrubs have developed a leggy untidy appearance that dominates the small front garden. The pruning of the shrubs will tidy things up and allow more sunlight and natural light enter the garden area

#### 5.8 APPRAISAL OF THE PROPOSED WORKS

T1 Ash Tree

- 5.9 Included bark is a defect that affects the structural integrity of the tree. It is therefore important that the canopy of the tree is not allowed to develop otherwise there is an increased risk of failure. Failure could mean damage to persons or property in this setting.
- 5.10 Reducing the canopy of the tree will limit the forces of the wind on the canopy. This will allow the tree to retained in a safe condition

#### 5.11 Shrubs T2

Reducing and balancing the canopy of the shrubs will allow more light to enter the garden and will not have a detrimental effect on the health and amenity provided by the shrubs

# 6.0 Conclusion

6.1 Therefore taking all of the relevant issues into account, it is considered that the works to prune the Ash tree T1 and shrubs T2 identified in the proposal are acceptable.

## 7.0 Recommendation:

The Council does not consider that it is appropriate to make a Tree Preservation Order in this instance as it has no objections to the following works:

Ash tree T1 reduce the canopy of the tree by 30% and raise the crown in order to balance the canopy.

Reduce canopy of the shrubs evenly by no more than 1 to 1.5 metres.

