



Mr M Bell
100 Kidmore End Road
Emmer Green
Reading
RG4 8SL

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: 221635/TPO
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440
sarah.hanson@reading.gov.uk

23 November 2022

Your contact is: Sarah Hanson, Planning, Development & Regulatory Services

Dear Mr Bell

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE OAK TREE AT 100 KIDMORE END ROAD, READING - T1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 54/13.

Thank you for your application of 1 November 2022, regarding the above.

Following receipt of your application, you confirmed in your email of 3 November that, after speaking to your tree advisor, you wished your application to seek approval for the following:

1. Crown reduction by 2.5 metres all round
2. Crown Lifting to approx 3 metres from the ground
3. Some crown thinning of dead wood.

The reasons you have stated for the works (in your application and subsequent emails) are that the tree 'is getting very large', it has low branches, is overhanging the road, due to the size of the tree you are now getting branches falling on the drive which is a concern with regards to hitting people and after rain the rainwater drain is full of acorns and leaves due to the size of the tree.

As you know, you submitted a tree works application in 2020 (ref 201299) that was never completed due to a lack of confirmation of proposed works. Following my visit of 9/10/20 to assess that application I suggested that the following works would be reasonable:

- Crown lift to 5.5m through 360° by tip reduction and removing secondary and tertiary growth only (this includes the removal of epicormic growth from the main trunk)
- Crown reduce lateral growth only by approx. 1.5m, back to suitable growing points,

shaping the crown towards the top to maintain a flowing crown shape. It should be ensured that no more one third of the foliage is removed from any branch

During my visit of 15 November 2022 we discussed the currently proposed works, the previously discussed works along with your current concerns and those of your neighbour at No. 98 who joined us.

As discussed, an overall crown reduction (hence including the height), which you confirmed to be a reduction of 2.5m from every direction as opposed to a total, is considered to be excessive and not justified (with reference to the reasons put forward), hence this degree of reduction is refused. However, a reduction of 1.5m would be reasonable, measured from the outer extremities but excluding the height, which you agreed was not necessary. In addition, the greater crown lifting suggested in 2020 would still be reasonable and would then include growth/regrowth growing over/towards your neighbour's garage and would also include any minor (epicormic) growth on the main trunk below the crown break garage - you agreed to this increase in proposed crown lift during our meeting. I am unclear what you/your tree surgeon means by '*some crown thinning of dead wood*' but can confirm the removal of dead wood can be undertaken at any time - for future reference, no formal approval is required for this but we do ask for notice of the intention to carry this out so it can be noted on the TPO file.

I can confirm that the following proposed works are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the photograph below:

- Crown lift to 5.5m through 360° by tip reduction and removing secondary and tertiary growth only - this includes the removal of epicormic growth from the main trunk and regrowth from the lower branch growing towards the garage of No.98.
- Crown reduce lateral growth only by approx. 1.5m, back to suitable growing points, shaping the crown towards the top to maintain a flowing crown shape. It should be ensured that no more one third of the foliage is removed from any branch and no reduction in height is included.



Removal of re-growth from low branch to be included in crown lift

Conditions

1. Five days' notice in writing shall be given to the Council prior to undertaking the approved works.

Reason: To ensure that the Local Planning Authority is given sufficient notice of the works to enable the effective monitoring of tree work within the Borough.

2. All tree surgery shall be in accordance with BS 3998: (2010) Tree Work - Recommendations.

Reason: To ensure that all works are carried out in an acceptable arboricultural manner

3. The approved canopy reduction shall be undertaken in mid-late Summer (July - September) when the tree's energy reserves are at their height or during the Winter months of December - January during the period of dormancy.

Reason: Taking into account the tree's phenological cycle and in order to avoid any unnecessary detriment to the tree as a result of the pruning work.

4. Climbing spikes shall not be used whilst undertaking any form of works on living trees, except on trees to be felled.

Reason: Spikes can cause extensive long-term damage

Informatives

1. You are advised that, in accordance with Part 4, 17 (4) of The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012, this decision is valid for one pruning operation (as per the approved specifications) to be undertaken within two years from the date of this notice, after which the consent lapses and a new application will be required.

2. Removal of dead or dangerous wood: This does not require the formal consent of the Council. However written notice must be given 5 working days in advance of removing dead wood. Where a branch is deemed to be 'dangerous', i.e. where works are 'urgently necessary to remove an immediate risk of serious harm', you are required to give notice to the Council 'as soon as practicable after the works become necessary'.

3. Disturbance of wildlife: It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to disturb roosting bats or nesting birds. It is advisable to consult your tree surgeon/consultant to agree an acceptable time for carrying out any work. Wildlife and habitat controls are administered by Natural England who can be contacted on 0300 030 6000

4. Crown lifting of trees over the footpath and carriageway: If the clearance of vegetation overhanging the highway only involves the removal of branches to give a ground clearance to the statutory heights of 2.7m over the footpath and 5.5m over the road, this does not require formal consent from the Council. You are advised, however, to give notice to the Council of these intended works in order that they can be agreed.

If you wish to appeal against the refusal to allow an overall crown reduction of 2.5m or against any of the conditions attached to the consented work, please contact the Planning Inspectorate within 28 days of receipt of this letter to obtain the relevant forms:

Trees and Hedges
Room 3A Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Telephone: 0303 444 5570

E-mail it to: treeandhedgeappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Website: [Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/topics/trees-and-landscapes/tree-preservation-orders)

If you suffer any loss or damage as a result of this refusal of consent, you may be entitled to recover compensation from the Council. If you wish to make a claim you must do so within 12 months from the date of this decision (or, if you appeal to the Secretary of State, within 12 months from the date of his decision). Claims should be made in writing to the Insurance Section, Reading Borough Council, Civic Centre, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer