



Mrs H Williams
Heights Tree Care
Mayfield
Hazelmoor Lane
Gallowstree Common
RG4 9DJ

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
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Our Ref: 221402/TPO
Your Ref:

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sarah.hanson@reading.gov.uk

6 October 2022

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

Dear Ms Williams

RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE SYCAMORE AT 25 RUSSET GLADE, READING - T3 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 17/02.

Thank you for your application of 20 September 2022, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on 27 September 2022 with my colleague Andrei Nazare, I have the following comments:

Your application seeks to fell the Sycamore, the reason given being: *'Tree is heavily leaning towards property and patio, the tree has an unbalanced canopy with the majority of weight towards house'*.

It was noted during the visit that the twin-stemmed tree, located on slope, does have a lean towards the house and that the crown extends further on the north side (towards the house) and west side (towards No. 42). In relation to the lean, no evidence has been provided to suggest that this is anything but historic as a result of the tree naturally leaning away from the adjacent trees to seek light, i.e. no arboricultural concerns about the lean have been provided such as evidence of the lean being recent or evidence of ground movement. The dominance of the canopy on the north and west sides appear to be a natural consequence of suppression by the adjacent trees in order for the tree to maximise light absorption.

Your application offers no comment on whether alternatives have been considered to address the concerns. Felling is considered to be an extreme reaction to the concerns raised, when pruning, in the absence of arboricultural justification for felling, can be carried out to alleviate concerns. Felling would result in the loss of a tree of high amenity

value, visible from the road and contributing to the verdant nature of the road and locality.

Crown pruning was discussed on site with Mrs Pinder, albeit I appreciate that we were explaining the alternative to felling, which is not necessarily accepted by the applicant. As a result of this, lesser works are approved in the form of selective branch/canopy reduction as detailed below.

In conclusion, the proposed felling is refused for the reasons given above.

However, I can confirm that the following works are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the attached annotated photographs:

- T3 Sycamore - lateral reduction of the north side (growing towards the house), back to previous reduction points (approx. 1-2m); reduction of the west side (growing towards No. 42) by 1-2m, back to appropriate growing points; remove one rubbing branch

The crossing/rubbing branch is difficult to specifically identify from photographs, although evident on site, hence the photographs show the area in which this was located.

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 not be undertaken in the period immediately before or during bud burst and leaf fall.

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

If you / your client wish to appeal against the refusal to fell the Sycamore or against any of the conditions attached to the consented works, 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
[Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

If your client suffers any loss or damage as a result of this refusal of consent, they may be entitled to recover compensation from the Council. If they wish to make a claim they must do so within 12 months from the date of this decision (or, if they 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

C.c. Mr & Mrs Pinder, 25 Russet Glade