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Mr Mark Ward
Arum Tree Services
Little Court
Crookham Common Road
Brimpton
RG7 4TD

Our Ref: 211716/TPO
Your Ref:

Email: lee.garner@reading.gov.uk

16th November 2021

Your contact is:

Lee Garner, Planning

Dear Mr Ward,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 8 LONDON PLANES, 3 ALDERS AND A LIME, WITHIN LAND AT CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, RICHFIELD AVENUE, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 118/09.

Thank you for your application dated 17th October 2021, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on the 26th October 2021, I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

4x London Planes (T1, T14, T19, T20 & T23 of TPO 118/09)

- Selectively prune by undertaking a 15% crown thin evenly throughout the trees canopy, ensuring that a “lion tail” effect is not created. Also, remove deadwood and tip-reduce lateral branches extending over/towards the hotel roof creating up to 3m clearance to the building (Crowne Plaza Hotel).

London Plane (T3 of TPO 118/09)

- Remove crossing branches, inline with current best standards.

Lime (T13 of TPO 118/09)

- Selectively prune by undertaking a tip-reduction of lateral branches extending over/towards the hotel roof creating up to 3m clearance to the building (Crowne Plaza Hotel).

3x Alders (T4 -T6 inclusive of TPO 118/09)

- Crown lift to 3.5m lower canopy extending over the parking bays/ Footpath.

Note: Removal of deadwood does not require the formal consent of the Council. However written notice must be given 5 working days in advance of removing deadwood. On this occasion we will accept your application as formal notice.

When removing ivy, it is essential that only hand tools (non-mechanical) are used to ensure damage does not occur to the outer bark. Damage to the bark could result in ring barking the tree and result in its early demise.

The removal of deadwood and crossing branches can account for up to 10% of a crown thin. The percentage provided (15%) for the crown thinning works is deemed as an addition to the above.

No reason has been provided for the 15% crown thin, as is a normal requirement. However, it has been assumed that the work has been proposed to improve light levels, albeit the level of thinning is minimal. Given that we are satisfied that this pruning would not cause detrimental harm to the tree, it has been agreed without a specific reason being stated in this case.

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. 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

4. Crown cleaning should not include the removal of fused natural braces (branches or stems), or the removal of entwining branches or rubbing branches (where they may be forming a natural brace) from the crown of a semi-mature to fully mature tree without carrying out an assessment of any junctions formed below such natural braces.

Reason: Removal of natural braces may lead to failure of weak unions.

Informative(s)

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. It is best to avoid works in the period immediately before or during bud burst and leaf fall to minimise the effect on the long-term health of the tree
5. Prior to the severing of well-established Ivy at the base of the tree, it would be prudent to carry out an assessment of whether any of the stems of the Ivy are forming a natural brace above a suspected bark-included union

If you wish to appeal against any of the conditions attached to this consent, 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

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

Yours sincerely

Lee Garner

Lee Garner
Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer

CC: Crown Plaza Hotel, Caversham Bridge, Richfield Avenue, Reading, RG7 8BD