



Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

Julian Clarke
Canon Tree Care
Wyldcourt Hill
Hampstead Norreys
Thatcham
RG18 0TN

Our Ref: 210528/TPO
Your Ref:

Email: lee.garner@reading.gov.uk

25th August 2021

Your contact
is:

Lee Garner, Planning

Dear Mr Clarke

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO AN ASH TREE (T2) LOCATED WITHIN THE REAR GARDEN OF
71 PEPPARD ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER
40/003**

Thank you for your application dated 31st March 2021, received on 7 April, and pre-submission email correspondence dated 30th March 2021 regarding the above.

As you are aware, my colleague Sarah Hanson visited the site on 22 April 2021. Following that it was agreed to leave the application open so that the tree's condition could be reassessed at a more useful time of year, i.e. when the tree was in full leaf.

Further to my site meeting on the 16th August 2021, I have the following comments:

During my visit I noted the large prominent Ash tree located to the rear of the above property. On inspection the Ash tree was displaying mild signs of stress in the form of reduced crown density. There are also a number of small dead branches within the canopy, which can also be attributed to stress.

In an attempt to quantify the density loss I would suggest that the canopy has thinned by no more than 10% compared to that which would be expected from an Ash of this age. In tree terms this is not highly significant and an amount that the tree would be able to

easily recover. Environmental factors such as relative drought periods and/or increased sunny periods could be attributable to this level of stress.

In relation to the concerns raised, taking a closer look within the canopy (from ground level) the symptoms displayed by this tree is not typical of Ash Dieback. There were no visual signs of wilting shoots noted, lesions near branch attachments or black spots on leaves. Within the application there was no evidence provided demonstrating such noted symptoms within the tree's canopy.

The extent of the crown thinning is not such that would currently justify removal, particularly when the cause is unknown. However, this should be monitored in future years to compare the condition to what it is now in order to establish if thinning is worsening over time.

The tree is experiencing a level of stress that justifies continued monitoring of the tree's health and condition by a tree professional. In order to substantiate the concerns for the health of the tree that would justify its removal, we would expect a detailed report, with photos, identifying and cataloguing areas in which the tree is displaying such symptoms of Ash Dieback.

On the basis of information provided within the application and my visual observations during my visit, it is considered that felling the Ash tree, as proposed, is premature and unsubstantiated.

In conclusion, the proposed removal of the Ash tree is refused. If you wish to appeal against the Council's decision on this matter, 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 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

Lee Garner

Lee Garner
Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer

c.c. Marc Bruno, 71 Peppard Road, Reading.