



Kietz TPO application to RBC
TPO number/ref TPO98/05

Ref Specification of works, reasons for works based on arboricultural advice from Neil Wilson

Specification

T.1 Robinia by garage

Remove major deadwood, ie branches over 50mm at source and over 300mm in length (informative does not require TPO permission).

Remove branch with defect that over hands garage roof, see photo.

T.2-13 Limes along rear boundary

Re pollard at approximately 3m at historic pollard knuckles, leaving 50-100mm stubs to aid regrowth.

Reasons for works to T.1

- The proposed works will help to prevent future conflict with the building.
- There is a risk this branch will fail.

Reasons for works to T.2-13

- The trees have been historically pollarded at an approx height of 3m. There is a high likelihood that the trees will fail at this point in the future. The target area should the tree or a portion of it fail is the house and side garden both of which are heavily used. Any failure has the potential to lead to significant damage to property and/or serious injuries.
- Decay and severely included unions are/is clearly visible at some of old pollard points
- These trees share a co dominant crown and therefore need to be pruned as a group. Pruning just the trees with the most significant defects will open the others up to wind stresses they are not used to and will likely lead to failures.
- The proposed works will help to prevent future conflict with the building.
- The trees are dominating and whilst the residents like and enjoy the positive aspects of the trees, they do not want them towering over the house, especially with risk of failure at the old pollard points.
- Pollarding is a recognised pruning technique and used to control numerous of Reading's street trees.
- Limes as a species respond well to pollarding.



- It could be argued that the pollarding should be carried out in stages over several years. However the trees are so close to a significant target that the risk is too great and I have every confidence these trees will survive and flourish after pollarding.
- The pollarding will allow more light into the garden and property.
- The area has plenty of tree cover and therefore any loss of visual amenity will be minimal.
- The pollarding will improve the relationship between the trees and its location.
- Pollarding these trees will have a positive long-term impact upon the sustainability of the trees.
- The location of the trees, means it is exposed to significant wind stresses which will likely lead to failure. The pruning will remove the risk of failure.
- Because the house screens most of the trees the pollarding will only be noticeable from one or two public places and you will have to look hard to see the trees, therefore the loss of visual amenity for the local landscape will be minimal.
- The trees have grown significantly since the TPO was placed on it and I don't see it as unreasonable for the home owners to request to make the trees safe.

Summary

The proposed works will make the trees safe, make a significant difference to Clients use and enjoyment of their garden and will help to prevent future conflicts between the trees and the property. This will far outweigh any loss of visual amenity.

Associated documents

1. Location Plan
2. Photos of T.1 T.2-13