



Andrew Jones
Primary Tree Care
10 Crispin Place
Wallingford
OX10 0DR

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: 211806/TPO
Your Ref:

Email: lee.garner@reading.gov.uk

7th December 2021

Your contact is:

Lee Garner, Planning

Dear Mr Jones,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO CEDAR ADJACENT TO 59-73 ABBOTSMEAD PLACE,
CAVERSHAM, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 125/07.**

Thank you for your application dated 5th November 2021 and subsequent email amending requested works from a full crown reduction to a selected reduction as permitted below.

Further to my visit on the 9th November 2021, I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

Deodar Cedar (T2 of TPO 125/07)

- Selectively prune lateral branches on south-east side that protrude from natural canopy shape, by tip reducing up to 2m, in order to reduce the weight of the laterals and create an even and balanced crown following recent branch failure on that side. All pruning cuts are to be undertaken in-line with BS3998 (2010).
- Selectively prune northern canopy, extending towards flats (59-73) by tip-reducing by up to 1.5 metres (see attached annotated photo), back to suitable pruning points inline with BS3998 (2010) and no further than 2018 pruning points.

As you know, your original application sought consent to: *'Crown reduce by c2m to create more compact form and reduce likelihood of further limb breakages'*. As explained in email correspondence, previous records show that works had been undertaken during 2016 (app 161628) & 2018 (app 181989). During 2016 a tip-reduction was allowed with only references made to storm damage in the past, but no evidence provided showing any

current storm damage at the time of the application. During 2018 again only a tip-reduction was consented, the reason for the work being to improve light levels for the residents - I note that a comment was included stating: *'additionally cedar trees are prone to storms damage and this particular tree is no exception having had x 3 branches of significant size fail over the last few years'*, but again no evidence of that damage (assumed to be since the 2016 works) was provided. No works had been permitted to address storm damage or failed branches in the latter application, with the former seeming to be as a precautionary measure. As you are aware, in-line with TPO legislation we require 5 days formal notice when addressing storm damage, for which we do not have any records of until your email earlier this year, preceding this current application. As such, we have no details on file of the damage over the years to help demonstrate that your original proposed pruning was justified, i.e. based on past failures.

During my visit I could see one area of storm damage only, the canopy on that side is now unbalanced and would benefit from tip-reducing to create a balanced shape in order to reduce wind sail on one limb or part of the crown (which could lead to failure). Looking at the remaining crown it was not clear as to other past failures or areas in which the canopy is unbalanced to an extent that remedial works are required, hence I questioned the proposed work which ultimately resulted in an amended proposal (as approved).

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

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. 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 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



Pruning outside of green lines indicated.