



Mr J Pullum
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Frances Martin
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Our Ref: 201660/TPO
Your Ref:

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16th December 2020

Your contact is: Andrei Nazare, Planning

Dear Mr. Pullum,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE PLANE TREE AND ONE LIME TREE AT BRANAGH COURT, CRAIG AVENUE, READING - T1 AND T3, RESPECTIVELY, OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 71/05.

Thank you for your application of 23rd November 2020, regarding the above.

You have applied to undertake the following tree works:

1. Lime tree (T3 of TPO, TVH000286 of application) - Crown reduce to previous reduction points & shape 2-2.5m. Remove epicormic growth up to crown break and sever Ivy.
2. Plane tree (T1 of TPO, TVH000287 of application) - Prune specific branch/limb. Reduce back lateral branches towards building TV aerial by 4m to clear both building and aerial. Sever Ivy.

I note these two trees were subject to a previous application, ref. 171363, decision dated 6th September 2017. In that case, re-pollarding the Lime tree was approved for the January-February or June-August of the following year - 2018, hence it has only been 2 years since it was last pollarded. The works on the Lime tree requested with the current application translate to re-pollarding the tree. Although in principle the Borough Council has no objection to re-pollarding this tree - it has been done before - given its advanced age it is advisable the pollarding cycle should be sufficiently long to allow the tree to recover and gain energy reserves. In old age the tree is slower to respond and produce re-growth and is more susceptible to pathogens therefore frequent significant pollarding

operations can reduce its overall health. During our visit on 15th December, my colleague Sarah Hanson and I, assessed the re-growth since the last pollarding, which is not extensive, and decided the tree would benefit from an additional year's growth prior to being re-pollarded in order to gain energy. On this basis, the element of pollarding will be permitted on condition that it is only undertaken following the next growing season, July-August 2021 at the earliest.

Furthermore, your application states to 'reduce to previous reduction points and shape 2-2.5m'. The specification 'to shape' is not specific and does not quantify the extent of tree works you are looking to carry out. In addition, when taking a tree back to the previous pruning points it is rarely appropriate to go beyond this point as this will often mean removing the existing or early forming pollard knuckle. For clarity, we have taken your reference to 2-2.5m as being the amount (length) you estimate to be removed in order to 'reduce' back to previous pollard points.

With regards to the Plane tree, it is noteworthy to mention that the reduction by 4m of 'lateral branches towards building TV aerial' is difficult to define and quantify its extent - it could be arguable which branches lean towards the building's TV aerial and if cutting back 4 metres of all of them is reasonable. The Borough Council acknowledges the necessity of maintaining reasonable clearance between the tree and the building, therefore the works are approved in a more quantifiable form, as a lateral crown reduction back to 4 metres from the building.

It is noted that severing the Ivy is proposed for both trees and does not require formal permission from the Borough Council.

I can confirm that the following tree works are approved subject to the conditions below:

1. Lime tree (T3 of TPO, TVH000286 of application)
 - Remove epicormic growth up to crown break
 - After mid July 2021: Re-pollard reducing new growth back to the previous pruning points taking care not to damage or remove the emerging pollard knuckle
2. Plane tree (T1 of TPO, TVH000287 of application)
 - Lateral crown reduction to provide 3-4 metres clearance from the building, ensuring no pruning past previous pruning points, examples of which are shown indicatively in the photographs below.



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. The works hereby approved to T3 (Lime) should not be carried out before mid July 2021 and only within the months of mid July - August or January - February when the tree's energy reserves are at their highest.

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 or pollarding work.

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
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

Andrei Nazare

Andrei Nazare
Assistant Natural Environment Officer

C.c
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