



Mrs. Laura Smith
Ground Control Ltd
Kingfisher House
Radford Way
Billericay
CM12 0EQ

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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Our Ref: 201732/TPO
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 374294
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2nd February 2021

Your contact is: Andrei Nazare, Planning

Dear Mrs. Smith,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TWO SYCAMORE TREES, TWO LIME TREES, TWO BEECH TREES AND ONE ASH TREE AT 42 BATH ROAD, READING - T4, T5, T9, T10, T15, T18 AND T21 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 62/06.

Thank you for your application of 4th December 2020, regarding the above.

Further to my colleague Sarah Hanson's visit on 27th January 2021, I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

- Sycamore (T4 of TPO, T1 on application) - Remove dead wood from crown.
- Sycamore (T21 of TPO, T2 or T3 on application) - remove dead wood from crown and lift branches overhanging parking bays to 5m.
- Lime (T5 of TPO, T4 of application) - Remove epicormic growth and crown lift to 4m.
- Beech (T9&T10 of TPO, T5 of application) - Reduce limbs overhanging neighbours car park by 2.5m to prevent damage to cars.
- Ash (T15 of TPO, T6 of application) - Reduction of limbs overhanging and touching corner of building to provide 2m vertical clearance to the roof.
- Lime (T18 of TPO, T8 of application) - Pollard to previous points removing epicormic growth.

With regards to the work to the Ash tree (T15 of TPO, T6 on application), it should be noted that the permitted clearance is regarded as vertical clearance, i.e. branches will

still overhang the roof, as pruning to provide horizontal clearance is not appropriate.

T2 Sycamore and T7 Sycamore of your application are not included in the TPO.

The visual assessment carried during the visit indicates the Ivy is growing past the point of it being manageable by the trees. Allowing further unchecked growth in the upper crown increases sail area and, with the added weight, the chances of windthrow. In addition, it prevents a full inspection of the tree being carried out, i.e. it hides any defects present. We suggest the applicant considers severing the Ivy on all trees for these reasons

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

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. Crown lifting of trees over the footpath and carriageway: If the clearance of vegetation overhanging the highway only involves the removal of branches to give a ground clearance to the statutory heights of 2.7m over the footpath and 5.5m over the road, this does not require formal consent from the Council. You are advised, however, to give notice to the Council of these intended works in order that they can be agreed.

6. 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. Joe Cuthbert, Maintenance Manager, Beacher Hall, 42 Bath Road