



Hannah Lawrence
Heights Tree care
Mayfield
Hazlermoor Lane
Gallowstree Common
RG4 9DJ

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: 200618 / TPO
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 374294
sarah.duckworth@reading.gov.uk

10th June 2020

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning and Building Control

Dear Ms Williams,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO A CEDAR TREE AT CHILTERN COLLEGE, PEPPARD ROAD, READING - PROTECTED AS T1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 8/17.

Thank you for your application dated 29th April 2020, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on Friday 29th May, I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

Approved Tree Works

- T1- Cedar Fell to ground level

This is a mature specimen tree which has tarmac surfacing over a large percentage of its rooting area. The tree has shed several sizeable branches (four in the past 12 months alone) and as a result there are many tear out wounds and pruning cuts in the tree's canopy. The canopy of T1 Cedar has been extensively crown lifted increasing the oscillation of the tree's canopy in high winds and subsequently the height from which branches fall unimpeded in the event of branch failure, thus increasing the potential for harm.

Although Cedar as a species are prone to occasional branch failure, the number and frequency of falling branches on this tree is exceptional and may be indicative of root problems. The base of the tree is clear with a smooth, slightly swollen buttress flare which can also be indicative of decay. Decay if present would be difficult to detect due to the hard standing around the base of the tree which would inhibit the growth of any decay fungi fruiting bodies.

The area under the canopy of the tree is high occupancy with visitors and pupils to the school. The Borough Council considers that further branch failure from this tree is foreseeable and that the risk to pedestrians / property as a result of any future branch failure is high.

In view of this, the Borough Council consents to the removal of this tree subject to suitable replacement planting.

Conditions

1. 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

2. Following the felling of the Cedar authorised by this consent, 1x 2-3m tall containerised coniferous tree or 1x 3-4m tall containerised broadleaf tree shall be planted within the school grounds during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest.

The species and location of the new tree should be agreed in advance in writing with the Borough Council prior to purchase and planting.

Planting should be carried out in accordance with clause 10 (Planting) of BS 8545:2014 'Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations'

Should the replacement tree be removed, die or become severely damaged or seriously diseased, all within 5 years of planting, it shall be replaced by a tree of a similar size and species to that originally planted. Modifications to the requirements of this condition must be agreed in writing with Reading Borough Council Natural Environment Team.

PLEASE NOTE: The requirement to replant is the responsibility of the tree owner even if the application was submitted by another person.

Reason: To retain the present visual amenity value of the area and ensure continuity of tree coverage.

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. 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:

The Environment Appeals Team, The Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/25, Hawk Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN

Email: environment.appeals@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0117 372 8192

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SD' with a stylized flourish underneath.

Sarah Duckworth
Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer

cc. Chris Lawrence, Chiltern College, Peppard Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 8JZ