



Mrs. Kirstie Harvey
Artemis Tree Services
West Hyde Nursery
Old Uxbridge Road
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Herts
WD3 9XY

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
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Our Ref: 210148/TPO
Your Ref:

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22nd March 2021

Your contact is:

Andrei Nazare, Planning

Dear Mrs. Harvey,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TWO HORNBEAM TREES AND A GROUP OF VARIOUS TREES AT OSBERT HOUSE, NOTLEY PLACE, EMMER GREEN, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 50/13.

Thank you for your application of 28th January 2021, regarding the above.

Further to my colleague Sarah Hanson's visit on 18th March 2021, I can confirm that the following works, are approved subject to the conditions below:

- 2x Hornbeam trees (T13 and T15 on TPO, T5 and T6 on application) - Reduce width by approximately 0.5m & lift crown to 3m above ground level over road
- Various (Hornbeam, Lime, Sycamore; G2 on application, T20-T27 on TPO) - Crown lift to 5.5m over highway, prune 0.5m clear from street lights and columns

In relation to the aforementioned two Hornbeam trees, your application also sought approval to reduce their height by 1m. The reason provided for all the works to these trees was *'to reduce encroachment towards property, improve shape, remove low hanging branches over road'*. There appeared to be no reason to reduce the height of the trees, with their location allowing for the trees' optimal height to be achieved in the long

term. I note there is no sound arboricultural reason provided for the proposed 1m height reduction (which is then likely to need repeating) therefore this work element is refused.

The intention to remove dead wood from protected trees is noted.

During the site visit it came to my colleague's attention that the extent of Ivy on the trees part of G2 was fairly extensive and it would be prudent to sever this as its base at the time of carrying out the approved works. As it is, the Ivy is preventing visual inspection of the trees' trunks for possible defects and it increases the risk of windthrow due to increased 'sail area', therefore severing it is encouraged.

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. Tree work consents on land not owned by the applicant: It is strongly recommended that the owner of the tree be advised of any proposed works. The owner's permission must be sought if the tree works involve work past the boundary line. This consent does not in any way imply that this Council has informed the owner of sought permission or will condone the use of consents to force any landowner to grant such permission.
6. 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.
7. 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

Appeal

If you wish to appeal against the Council's refusal on the matter of height reduction or 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 suffer any loss or damage as a result of this refusal of consent, you may be entitled to recover compensation from the Council. If you wish to make a claim you must do so within 12 months from the date of this decision (or, if you appeal to the Secretary of State, within 12 months from the date of his decision). Claims should be made in writing

to the Insurance Section, Reading Borough Council, Civic Centre, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU.

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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