



Mr. David White
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Our Ref: 201564/TPO
Your Ref:

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25th November 2020

Your contact is:

Andrei Nazare, Planning

Dear Mr. White

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 2 DOUGLAS FIR AND 1 YEW TREE, AT 28 ST PETERS HILL, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 125/09.

Thank you for your tree works application of 6th November 2020, regarding the above.

Further to your e-mail communication with my colleague Sarah Hanson, I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

1. Douglas fir (T3 of application; T1 of TPO) - crown raise to approximately 5 metres above ground level
2. Yew (T2 of application & TPO) - crown raise to approximately 5 metres above driveway level. This will predominantly involve removing branches back to source.
3. Douglas fir (T1 of application; T3 of TPO) - Fell due to presence of root-rotting Cauliflower fungus (*Sparassis crispa*) in the rootplate. (please note condition 4 below)

Noteworthy mention regarding the T3 Douglas fir: Although a large and valuable TPO tree, it is unfortunate that fruiting bodies of *Sparassis crispa* have been identified on its root plate. The presence of this fungi has been associated with brown rot leading to root plate failure or breakage at the stem base. In this case, given the tree's size and proximity to a busy highway, the risks associated with retaining this tree are too great to take and

outweigh the amenity value provided by the tree. Therefore, felling is agreed, and we recommend choosing a replacement species that is not susceptible to the same type of fungi or fungi damage. *S. crispa* is often found on Pine and sometimes on Cedar, Fir, Larch or Spruce trees, so these genera would be best avoided. In terms of suggesting replacement species, this should be one of an ultimately similar stature to the Douglas fir in order to replace the lost amenity. It would seem reasonable to choose a broadleaved species given the genera associated with this fungus.

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. Following the felling of Douglas fir (T1 of application; T3 of TPO) authorised by this consent, one broadleaf tree of a minimum 10-12cm girth and 3 metres in height shall be planted within the front garden during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest. The species shall be agreed with the 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. 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. Removal of any dead or dangerous protected tree: This does not require the formal consent of the Council. However, you are required to give 5 days notice of the work where it is not an emergency, to allow the Council to agree that the proposed works are exempt from requiring consent. The exception is where works are 'urgently necessary to remove an immediate risk of serious harm', in which case you are required to give notice to the Council 'as soon as practicable after the works become necessary'.

Once felling of a dead or dangerous tree has been carried out, the owner has a duty under Section 201(b) of the Town & Country Planning Act to replant another tree of an appropriate size and species in the same place as soon as they reasonable can. This replacement tree will be covered by the existing Tree Preservation Order. The new tree would be subject to the same requirements for a tree works application if you intend to carry out works upon it in the future.

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

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