



Mrs Jennifer Jordan
Squirrels Leap
9 Brackendale Way
Reading
RG6 1DZ

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

Our Ref: 211603/TPO
Your Ref:

Email: lee.garner@reading.gov.uk

4th October 2021

Your contact
is:

Lee Garner, Planning

Dear Mrs Jordan,

RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE OAK AT 30 BRACKENDALE WAY, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 55/06

Thank you for your application dated 26th July 2021 regarding the above, which I note is a joint application with the tree's owner Mr Critcher.

As you are aware, this current application follows an application to fell last year (ref 201454) which was refused; an application to prune back all overhanging branches to your boundary (ref 201774) which was also refused. This current application is not supported by reasons, but you refer to correspondence already provided, which we have taken to be that provided with these two previous applications. These applications have been attached in response to your application.

Further to our meeting of the 28th September 2021, I have the following comments:

The issues with nuisance relating to tree, e.g. leave fall on to the driveways & gutters, has been dealt with in previous decisions and I would refer you to those, which are still applicable, as are the other comments provided in the decisions.

The purpose of my visit, therefore, was to assess the tree's condition to determine if there was anything obvious (in view of the lack of supporting arboricultural evidence) to justify the felling of the tree. I also understand that this new application may also have been

submitted to give you the opportunity to appeal (which you did not pursue previously) if the felling were refused.

During my visit I noted the mature oak to be a prominent individual that provides significant visual amenity to the local area. The tree was noted to be sustainably located, its canopy providing sufficient clearance to adjacent properties (9 & 30 Brackendale Way), with limited future growth potential.

On inspection there were no significant defects, aside from a small amount of deadwood (deadwood can be removed without formal consent) noted on the main trunk or within the canopy. However, it was clear that the leaves within the canopy were discoloured and blotchy.

Within the application we have not received any evidence or a professional report identifying the significance of these concerns. Relying on my observations from ground level I note the following.

As discussed, the leaves within the canopy of the oak, were showing to be discoloured and blotchy. These foliage 'symptoms' can be due to many reasons. The tree is located within a driveway, surrounded entirely by hard surfacing, with restricted access to water and nutrients. This lack of favourable rooting environment, compared for example to more preferred soft landscape areas e.g lawns, where water and nutrients are more readily available, can influence the tree's health and result in symptoms of leaf discoloration.

Tree roots growing amongst driveway areas can also be exposed to the long-term effects of contaminants leaching into the soil, such as car washing detergents, de-icer screen washes and/or car oil, to name a few, which can affect the tree's health and condition.

Within the tree world there are a number of diseases that can occur and result in leaf discoloration and blotches. Of the diseases that we know affect oaks, there are a small number of fungal or insect related leaf diseases that may cause such symptoms, which have varying impacts on tree health. The significance of such diseases can only be determined by having the leaves investigated by an independent tree health professional.

In considering why the tree is displaying signs of leaf discoloration or potential poor health, it is apparent that there is the need to undertake further investigation in order to determine the significance of the leaf discoloration.

On balance, dealing with the limited information that we know, the tree is experiencing issues with its foliage, which as discussed could be a range of issues and therefore several potential options/solutions may be available in alleviating the concern.

However, as there has been no information provided by an independent tree professional, detailing their investigations and findings of a specific disease or known problem, allowing

the removal of this tree at this time would be considered premature and unsubstantiated.

In conclusion, the proposed removal or removing the canopy over 9 Brackendale Way is refused.

If you wish to appeal against the Council's decision on this matter, 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

Lee Garner

Lee Garner BSc (hons) Arboriculture
Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer

Cc: Mr Critcher, 30 Brackendale Way, Reading, RG6 1DZ

Enc: Decision Letters Ref: 201454/TPO & 201774/TPO