



Mr L Langham
The Wren School
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Frances Martin
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14 July 2020

Your contact
is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr Langham

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT THE WREN SCHOOL, 61-63 BATH ROAD, READING -
SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 93/03.**

Thank you for your application of 16 March 2020, regarding the above, with accompanying Tree Report PRI22779tr, dated 17/02/2020, and Tree Location Plan PRI22779-01, dated 14.02.2020. I apologise for the delay in processing your application which, as you are aware, was due to Covid-19 movement restrictions.

Further to my visit on 8 July 2020, I can confirm that the proposed works, as detailed in the Tree Report, are approved subject to the conditions below. In addition, the following further work/amendments are approved, subject to the conditions below and with reference to the attached photographs, as agreed on site:

- T863 Cedar - fell (as opposed to the works recommended). As discussed, the tree has suffered from limb tear-outs which question the structural integrity of the branches originating from the areas of wounding. It also has a definite crown bias. I am happy to leave the decision to the school as to the extent of works carried out.
- T812 Horse chestnut - fell. The tree is unfortunately in poor condition with a sparse crown and significant areas of bark death.
- T888 Lime - remove one branch back to source, in addition to the work recommended. It was noted that a secondary branch had torn out leaving a large wound on the main branch, close to its union with the trunk, i.e. leaving the whole

branch in a less stable condition. As discussed, pruning back to just before the tear, rather than back to the trunk would be prudent due to the size of wound that will be created.

- Lime on west side of the sunken garden, between T3 & T4 (shown but not labelled on the Tree Location Plan) - crown lift to 3-4m above ground level, including the removal of basal growth

Other recommendations, e.g. severing of Ivy, further investigations, and re-inspection suggestions are noted and would be prudent for the school to follow.

It was noted that there was a Corsican pine between trees T11 & T405 which is shown on the plan but not labelled. This tree is in a similar condition to T893 Corsican Pine hence it would also be prudent to review the vitality of this tree next year along with T893. It was noted that this Pine had a metal 'wheel' attached to the tree some metres up the main trunk. It would be prudent to remove this to avoid the potential of it falling onto any pupils.

The tree table within the Report includes two 'T11'. We took T11 to be the Holly near the Bath Road frontage (page 12 of the report). It was unclear where T11 Norway maple was (page 9 of the report), however the observations noted the tree is 90% dead, therefore its removal, once identified, would be reasonable.

It was also noted that some trees labelled on the Tree Location Plan were not included in the tree table hence no works were recommended. You may wish to confirm with the author of the Report that these trees required no work or further investigation.

As is clear from the tree observations within the Tree Report and from our site visit, the line of Maple trees running north-south through the centre of the site are being significantly, detrimentally harmed by squirrels. These trees are an importance feature across the site with the line continuing into the housing development to the south; all of which formed an important part of the tree retention over the whole site. As discussed, I would encourage the school to take some pest control advise to determine if any practical measures can be taken to deter the squirrels in order that the trees may survive longer-term.

We discussed improvements to the ground conditions under the trees, which is becoming compacted. You advised of the plans to lay mulch/woodchip under the trees - this will be beneficial to reduce compaction, improve the soil conditions and to retain moisture. It will also help improve the appearance of the garden which, due to the lack of landscaping (as approved under planning permission 180560/NMA), is not what it once was or should be.

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. This decision is valid for two years from the date of this notice after which the consent lapses

4. 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

5. The reduction works to the Maples hereby approved shall only be carried out late July-August or December-January.

Reason: To minimise harm to the future health of the trees.

6. Following the felling of the three trees (T863, T812 & 'T11') authorised by this consent, three (3) replacement trees of a minimum 10-12cm girth and 3m in height shall be planted within the school grounds during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the trees, whichever is soonest, the species of which shall be agreed with the Council.

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. 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'.

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 060 3900; enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

3. 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

4. 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 or sought permission or will condone the use of consents to force any landowner to grant such permission.

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

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer