



Mr S Bishop
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Frances Martin
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23 June 2020

Your contact
is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr Bishop

**RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE EUCALYPTUS TREE AT 14A HAWTHORNE ROAD,
READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 35/11.**

Thank you for your application of 10 February 2020, regarding the above. I apologise for the delay in processing your application; as you are aware, we have been unable to carry out visits until recently due to Covid-19 movement restrictions.

Further to my visit on 16 June 2020, I have the following comments:

TPO 35/11 was placed on the tree in 2011 at the time that the May Tree Walk development was proposed, in order to ensure its retention and protection during the construction of the adjacent houses. The tree was, and still is, very visible from within the neighbourhood by virtue of its size, hence it continues to provide amenity value.

Since the Order was served, the adjacent development in May Tree Walk was completed and neighbouring 10 May Tree Walk has been occupied. To date we have received two tree works applications from the owners of 10 May Tree Walk; one in 2017 and one in 2019 and pruning was approved to help alleviate their concerns over shading and safety. I understand that, as the owner, you share their concerns and wish to ensure that the tree does not pose an unacceptable risk to them. We understand that trees in close proximity to houses can cause apprehension and safety concerns are often cited to us as reasons to fell trees. Trees in an urban environment such as Reading are frequently close to houses

hence, as a principle, close proximity is not accepted as a reason to fell a healthy tree. However, we always look at the individual circumstances and every proposal to prune or fell a tree is determined on its own merits.

Eucalyptus trees are not as structurally sound as other species hence to retain the tree long-term at a size that would make the potential risk it presents acceptable, a significant reduction would be appropriate; pruning that would have to be repeated on a regular basis due to the vigorous nature of the species. Such a reduction would reduce the size of the tree to an extent that the visibility/amenity value could arguably then not warrant its inclusion in a TPO.

In terms of its appropriateness and usefulness as a species, I have taken into account in my assessment of your application the fact that the tree is non-native (albeit that alone does not preclude inclusion within a TPO), it is not particularly in keeping with the area and it has limited wildlife value.

We have weighted up the pros and cons of the tree, taking all the above into account. On balance it is considered that felling, in this particular case, is reasonable subject to ensuring appropriate replacement planting.

I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

- T1 Eucalyptus - fell

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. Following the felling of the tree authorised by this consent, one native broadleaved tree of a minimum 8-10cm girth and 2.75m high shall be planted within the rear 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. 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

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