



Mr N Coey
36 Fairfax Close
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Frances Martin
Executive Director for
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Our Ref: 201113/TPO
Your Ref:

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17 August 2020

Your contact is: Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr Coey

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE SYCAMORE AT 36 FAIRFAX CLOSE, READING - T1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 85/09.

Thank you for your application of 3 August 2020, regarding the above.

Your application seeks consent to remove one low main branch from the tree, is indicated on the application photograph.

Further to my visit on 13 August 2020, I have the following comments:

The branch proposed to be removed (back to source) is significant in diameter. As explained, good arboricultural practice, as given in BS 3998:2010 'Tree Work - Recommendations' advises that *'the diameter of the final cut should generally not exceed one-third of that of the parent stem or branch'*. In this case, the wound created by the removal of the branch in question would exceed that one-third, hence would go against good practice. In addition, the large wound created would be an entry point for pathogens and decay (Sycamore not being particularly good at resisting decay) and would ultimately create decay and a weak area on the lower trunk, thereby compromising the integrity of the tree at that point, i.e. the whole tree.

The ultimate aim of the branch's removal can be appreciated in that it would remove the most significant area of canopy overhanging and hanging low over the rear garden.

However, as discussed, there is alternative pruning that would alleviate the overhanging issues whilst avoiding large wounds.

The proposed removal of the main branch is refused for the reasons given above, however I can confirm that the following lesser works, as discussed on site, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the attached photographs:

- Remove 5 secondary branches from the main branch in question, as identified in the attached photographs.
- Remove one, forked, tertiary branch hanging low over the garden of No. 38, as identified in the attached photographs
- Reduce remaining southern canopy overhanging the rear garden by approximately 3m (from its further extent), back to suitable growing points roughly in line with the rear point of the garden swing set.

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 works hereby approved shall NOT be carried out in the period immediately before or during bud burst and leaf fall

Reason: To avoid harm to the future health of the tree.

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. Trees not considered to be protected by the current Tree preservation order: Work can be carried out to this tree without the formal consent from this Council.

If you wish to appeal against any of the conditions attached to the consented work or against the refusal of consent to remove one main branch, 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

Email: treeandhedgeappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Tel: 0303 444 5570

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

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer