



Mrs J Luyten-Hawkins
4 Bluebell Gardens
Emmer Green
Reading
RG4 8TG

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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Our Ref: 200761/TPO
Your Ref:

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6 July 2020

Your contact is: Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mrs Luyten-Hawkins

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE SYCAMORE AND ONE OAK AT 26 TOWER CLOSE,
READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 33/02.**

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

Further to my visit on 1 July 2020, I have the following comments:

The Sycamore tree in question is covered with extensive Ivy such that its condition can not be determined. It would appear that the only live growth on the tree is confined to the branch proposed for removal and some minor low growth. The removal of the branch, which overhangs the garden is reasonable with the tree effectively being a standing habitat. It would be prudent for the condition of the tree (under the Ivy) to be assessed to ensure it is safe to retain at its current height.

In relation to the Oak, we discussed the reduction of the forked branch overhanging your shed, in addition to the 2-3m reduction included in your application.

I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application and amended on site, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the attached photographs:

- Sycamore - remove one branch back to source

- Oak overhanging the south east corner of the garden - reduce section of crown indicated by 2-3m back to suitable growing points; reduce both forks of one forked branch back to the points indicated.

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

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