



Mrs E Shaffner
51 Orchard Grove
Caversham
Reading
RG4 6NF

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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

Our Ref: 200714/TPO
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440
Email: sarah.hanson@reading.gov.uk

3 July 2020

Your contact
is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mrs Shaffner

RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE OAK TREE AT 51 ORCHARD GROVE, READING - T3 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 68/01.

Thank you for your application of 26 May 2020, regarding the above.

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

The Oak in question is one of three Oaks successfully retained during the development of Orchard Grove. The tree is highly visible from various locations, including from Lowfield Road and as such provides good amenity value to the vicinity. The removal of the tree would have a significant detrimental impact on amenity and has not been justified in arboricultural terms. During my visit we discussed the concerns you raised on your application form and how these might be alleviated by pruning as an alternative to felling. Pruning, in this instance, is considered to be a reasonable and proportionate response to the concerns raised. As such, felling of the tree is refused, with specific pruning being approved as an alternative.

I can confirm that the following works, as discussed on site, are approved subject to the conditions below:

- T3 Oak - reduce the canopy spread west (towards Lowfield Road) and east (over 50 Orchard Grove) by a maximum of 2m back to suitable growing points; reduce the

canopy spread north (over the decked area) back to previous points in the lower canopy with appropriate reduction in the upper canopy to shape; reduce canopy of the south (towards the house) to reduce the longer, lower crown section back in line with upper crown (refer to indicative photo below). All reductions should leave a flowing crown line.



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 only be carried out late July-August or December-January.

Reason: To minimise 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

If you wish to appeal against any of the conditions attached to this consent or against the refusal to allow felling, 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 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