



Mr D Wills
15 Lyefield Court
Kidmore End Road
Emmer Green
Reading
RG4 8AP

Frances Martin
**Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services**

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

Our Ref: 191060/TPO
Your Ref:

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

24 July 2019

Your contact
is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr Wills

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT LYEFIELD COURT AND THE CONIFERS, KIDMORE
END ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 74/13.**

Thank you for your application of 1 July 2019, regarding the above.

During my visit on 16 July 2019 we discussed the Beech that is subject to the application but also some tree issues within G1 and recent damage to T5 (Sweet chestnut) by a delivery van.

In relation to T5, the damage and remedial work carried out was noted. We discussed the merits of removing some of the extensive mistletoe from the tree and decided that this was prudent given the amount present and its semi-parasitic nature. We also determined that crown cleaning of this tree would be prudent given the crossing/rubbing branches present.

Within G1, we discussed the removal of a dead tree (covered in extensive Ivy) and agreed that felling to a safe height, i.e. leaving a tall stump, would be beneficial for wildlife. There were some small, dead, seemingly self-sown trees within G1 which, as advised are not included in the TPO. The twin-stemmed Beech near the kerb edge is also not included in the TPO (note 'Beech' are not listed in G1) hence any work to this, such as reducing the weight of the limb over the road, would not require formal approval. Similarly, the Hazel within the same area are not included in the TPO hence coppicing

would not require approval. There was an old stump in the eastern end of the landscape area which, as discussed, would be beneficial to retain for both wildlife value and to avoid stump grinding within the root system of adjacent trees.

The Pine within G1 is clearly dying, being in a very poor condition with mainly brown needles. Multiple insect holes were noted in the lower trunk. The felling of this tree has been added to your application as a result of its condition.

Lastly, the basal growth on the Lime within G1 was noted and it is accepted that regular removal of this is good management hence your application was amended to deal with this matter.

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

- T2 Beech – crown lift to 2m above ground level through 360⁰; reshape lateral growth by reducing 1-1.5m following previous pruning cuts ensuring a flowing crown line; crown clean, i.e. remove dead, dying, dysfunctional, low vigour, crossing/rubbing branches
- T5 Sweet chestnut – crown clean, i.e. remove dead, dying, dysfunctional, low vigour, crossing/rubbing branches
- G1 Lime – removal basal growth twice a year for the next 5 years, i.e. until July 2024 when a new approval for this will be required.
- G1 Pine - fell

The intention to remove dead wood, if deemed a hazard, from T4 Liquidambar, is noted.

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 to T2 Beech shall only be carried out late July-August or December-January

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

6. Following the felling of the tree Pine tree authorised by this consent, one replacement tree of a minimum 8-10cm girth and 2.75m in height shall be planted within the same grass area during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, 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.

7. Crown cleaning should not include the removal of fused natural braces (branches or stems), or the removal of entwining branches or rubbing branches (where they may be forming a natural brace) from the crown of a semi-mature to fully mature tree without carrying out an assessment of any junctions formed below such natural braces.

Reason: Removal of natural braces may lead to failure of weak unions.

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. 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