

Mr. Thomas Chesterman
The Hedge Barbers Ltd
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Shinfield
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RG2 9DH

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
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Our Ref: 191834
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 374294
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9th December 2019

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr. Chesterman,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO A HORSE CHESTNUT TO THE REAR OF PARKHOUSE COURT,
PARKHOUSE LANE, READING, BERKSHIRE RG30 2AZ**

Thank you for your application dated 15th November 2019 regarding the above.

You have applied to carry out the following works:

T1 - Horse Chestnut

- To reduce tree by 2-3m all round in order to reduce the weight of limbs and to stop the tree getting closer to the building.

The Horse Chestnut is a significant, mature specimen. The tree is a lapsed pollard with approximately 6 large stems growing from an initial topping point at 1m above ground level. The tree has been topped again at around 3.5-4.5m above ground level with dense mature regrowth from the previous topping points some of which are dog-legged above the previous topping point. The tree has a very large, broad canopy with reasonable bud distribution and vitality.

Although the multi-stem form of the tree is inherently weaker than those of single-stemmed trees, I did not record any significant defects on the tree and the stem unions, which, although close, are not showing any large areas of bark inclusion or union separation which might undermine the structure of the stem union at this time.

The Borough Council would not usually support the full canopy reduction of an otherwise healthy protected tree due to the harm this work will have on the long term health and amenity of the tree. However, I accept that the tree is growing close to property, note the multi-stem form of the tree and therefore consider a light reduction would be acceptable on this occasion.

The current tree work specification exceeds that which was approved in an earlier application in 2013. To date no information has been submitted in support of this application which supports the need for a greater tree reduction in excess of that which was granted in 2013.

Your application to carry out an entire canopy reduction of the tree by 2-3m has therefore been refused.

However, having spoken to your client Mrs Bridges on the phone, she confirmed that the intention was to re-prune the tree as per the previous pruning works. In view of this, consent for lesser works, as per the previous consent (ref: 131290) has been granted subject to the conditions below:

Approved tree works

Horse Chestnut (T1 of TPO 70/01)

- Reduce lateral branches by up to 3m to previous pruning points and reduce height by approximately 1-2m using nearest suitable reduction points to leave a sympathetic and natural-looking canopy shape. Pruning cuts can be made back to but not beyond the previous reduction points taking care not to damage or remove any emerging pollard knuckle.

PLEASE NOTE CONDITIONS OF CONSENT, IN PARTICULAR CONDITION 3 - TIMINGS FOR APPROVED WORKS

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. The approved canopy reduction shall be undertaken in mid-late Summer (July - September) when the tree's energy reserves are at their height or during the Winter months of December - January during the period of dormancy.

Reason: Taking into account the tree's phenological cycle and in order to avoid any unnecessary detriment to the tree as a result of the pruning work.

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. You are advised that, in accordance with Part 4, 17 (4) of The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012, this decision is valid for one pruning operation (as per the approved specifications) to be undertaken within two years from the date of this notice, after which the consent lapses and a new application will be required.

2. Removal of dead or dangerous wood: This does not require the formal consent of the Council. 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'.

3. 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 030 6000

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 of sought permission or will condone the use of consents to force any landowner to grant such permission.

If you wish to appeal against the Council's refusal of consent to undertake a full canopy reduction of the tree, or against any of the conditions attached to the permitted works, please contact the Planning Inspectorate within 28 days of receipt of this letter to obtain the relevant forms:

The Environment Appeals Team
Trees and Hedges
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: 0303 444 5584

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SD' followed by a stylized flourish.

Sarah Duckworth
Assistant Natural Environment Officer

cc. Claire Bridges, Parkhouse Court, Parkhouse Lane, Reading, Berkshire RG30 2AZ