



Mr. Andrew Jones
Primary Tree Surgeons Ltd.
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Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG21 8TP

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
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Our Ref: 191849
Your Ref:

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20th January 2020

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr. Jones,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT 41-45 KENNET WHARF, QUEENS ROAD, READING, BERKSHIRE RG1 4BQ AND SUBJECT OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 37/10

Thank you for your application dated 18th November 2019 regarding the above. May I firstly apologise for the time it has taken for you to receive a response to your application.

You have applied to crown reduce the canopies of 7x Alder trees at Kennet Wharf by 1.5m. The reasons given for this work is that the trees are 'outgrowing their positions in the landscape, causing issues with light obstruction, branches touching the fabric of buildings and overhanging roads, public paths and car park.' You have advised that the works are part of a 'good management plan to retain the trees within a potentially, for the trees, harsh urban environment for the foreseeable future'.

In response to your application, I have been to Kennet Wharf and noted that although the trees are of the same species and similar ages, their past management has varied considerably. Where some trees have been significantly reduced in the past and have notably poor form, others have not.

T1 Alder is a mature tree with good form and vitality which does not show any evidence of having been reduced in the past. T5 Alder (T3 of TPO 37/10) by the entrance of Kennet Wharf has been reduced in the past but has recovered well without any significant lasting detriment to the form of the tree. Neither tree is causing a significant obstruction to light or property currently.

The proposed 1.5m reduction of T1 and T5 of your application (T1 and T3 of Tree Preservation Order 37/10) is therefore considered unnecessary at this time and potentially harmful to the long-term health and amenity value of the trees and is therefore refused.

Consent has been granted for lesser works to be undertaken to T1 and T5 of your application (T1 and T3 of Tree Preservation Order 37/10) in order to create reasonable clearance between these trees' canopies and the adjacent buildings subject to the conditions below. Works to other trees T2 Alder (T2 of TPO 37/10), T3, T4 Alder (G1 of TPO 37/10) and T6, T7 Alder (G2 of TPO 37/10) is permitted as per your application schedule.

Approved Tree Works

- T1 Alder (T1 of TPO 37/10) - Remove two lowest branches growing east towards the car park back to the main trunk and crown lift outer canopy branch tips in order to give reasonable clearance to property.
- T2 Alder (T2 of TPO 37/10) - Reduce canopy by 1.5m. This tree has been previously heavily reduced and is growing close to a street light therefore the proposed reduction is acceptable.
- T3, T4 Alder (G1 of TPO 37/10) - Reduce canopy by 1.5m (Includes all three trees within Group 1 of TPO 37/10). These trees have been topped previously both at 3m and 7m. The proposed reduction will reduce the wind loading on the previous topping points.
- T5 Alder (T3 of TPO 37/10) - Selective reduction of individual branches in order to give 2m clearance to the adjacent property.
- T6, T7 Alder (G2 of TPO 37/10) - Reduce canopy by 1.5m These trees have been previously heavily reduced and is growing close to a street light therefore the proposed reduction is acceptable.

Conditions

1. All tree surgery shall be in accordance with BS 3998: (2010) Tree Work - Recommendations. Pruning cuts from the permitted work shall be made back to a suitable growth point and will not exceed 100mm diameter. Reason: To ensure that all works are carried out in an acceptable arboricultural manner

2. 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.

3. 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. 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'.
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 decision on this matter or against conditions attached to the approved 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' with a stylized flourish underneath.

Sarah Duckworth
Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer