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Frances Martin
Executive Director for
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Our Ref: 191760 - TPO
Your Ref:

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2nd March 2020

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning & Building Control

Dear Sir or Madam,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO A PLANE TREE AT THE PARKSIDE NURSING HOME,
PROTECTED AS T2 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 63/03**

Thank you for your application dated 4th November 2020 and which was validated on the 29th January 2020.

You have applied to carry out a reduction of two trees, a Plane (T2 of TPO 63/03) and a False Acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). The reasons given for this work is that the trees overhang neighbouring gardens.

Following my site visit on 12th February 2020, I have determined that the False Acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) is not subject of a Tree Preservation Order therefore you do not need the consent of the Borough Council in order to carry out works to this tree.

The Plane (T2 of TPO 63/03) is a significant mature specimen which contributes to the amenity of Armadale Close to the rear of the nursing home. Located midway along the plot boundary, the tree does not overhang any neighbouring properties, but the canopy grows close to the nursing home to the west and over the the adopted highway to the east.

The proposed reduction to the Plane as shown in your annotated photographs constitutes major pruning works, reducing the height and spread of the tree by around 50% and the removal of over 75% of the tree's overall canopy volume and photosynthetic area. Inevitably, the long-term harm to both the health and wider amenity value of the tree would be considerable and long-lasting.

The proposed reduction would also create numerous pruning cuts throughout the canopy of the tree which would act as potential entry points for decay pathogens.

In view of these concerns, I am writing to advise you that the proposed reduction to the Plane tree (T2 of TO 63/03) is considered to be contrary to good Arboricultural good practice and your application to reduce the tree's canopy as shown in your annotated photographs is refused.

Consent has been granted for lesser works to be undertaken to T2 (Plane) in order to create reasonable clearance between the tree's canopy and the adjacent building and to give reasonable clearance over the public highway.

Approved Tree Works

T2 (Plane)

- Reduce west side of canopy to create 2-3m clearance to the Parkside Nursing Home using nearest suitable reduction points to leave a sympathetic, natural looking canopy outline.
- Crown lift in order to create 2.5m clearance over the pavement and 5.5m clearance over the adopted highway of Armadale Close using suitable reduction points to leave a sympathetic, natural looking canopy outline.

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. 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. Trees not considered to be protected by the current Tree preservation order: Work can be carried out to this tree without the formal consent from this Council.

If you wish to appeal against the Council's decision to refuse consent for the full reduction of canopy of T2 (Plane) of TPO 63/03, or against any of the 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 to reduce the canopy of the Plane (T2), 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 Duckworth
Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer

cc. James Foster - BUPA, via email