

Mr. Anthony Hopes
7 Woodlands Grove
Caversham
Berkshire
RG4 6NB

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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Our Ref: 191321
Your Ref:

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23rd September 2019

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr. Hopes,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO AN OAK TO THE REAR OF 7 WOODLANDS GROVE, CAVERSHAM
READING - PROTECTED AS T3 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 7/003.**

Thank you for your application dated 9th August 2019, regarding the above.

You have applied to prune the canopy of an Oak (T3) to clear the buildings by 2m and crown thin by 10% including the removal of crossing branches and epicormic growth.

As I advised you at our meeting, the proposed canopy thin could potentially reduce the shade cast under the tree however any improvement in light levels under the canopy would be short-lived as the tree would re-grow the thinned foliage within a growing season. Yet, the crown thin would create numerous pruning cuts throughout the canopy which would act as potential entry points for decay pathogens. The loss of photosynthetic area and energy spent replacing leaves and growth tips would also result in a drop in the tree's energy reserves.

Furthermore, the epicormic growth growing on the main branches of the tree which is proposed for removal is considered important to the health of mature Oak trees as it helps improve vascular flow along the branches of mature trees and increases the photosynthetic area of the tree. Removing this growth would have no discernible benefit for residents but the work would be potentially be detrimental to the tree's health and is contrary to good tree management.

Therefore, I must advise you that your application to thin the canopy of the tree by 10% and to remove epicormic growth has been refused.

Consent has been granted for the other works specified in your application and this includes the additional works required to clear your neighbour's outbuildings and which were discussed and agreed on site.

The following works are approved subject to the conditions below:

Approved Tree Works

- Prune to clear dwelling by 2.5m
- Crown lift outer lateral branch tips by 1-2m to suitable reduction points in order to clear neighbouring shed to give approximately 4-4.5m clearance above ground level.
- Crown clean removing and deadwood and crossing / rubbing branches

Conditions

1. 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

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

3. 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. 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. It is best to avoid works in the period immediately before or during bud burst and leaf fall to minimise the effect on the long-term health of the tree.

If you wish to appeal against the Council's refusal of consent or against any of the conditions attached to your consent, 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,

Sarah Duckworth

Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer