



Frances Martin
**Executive Director for
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Mr K Lee,
Tree Officer
Reading Borough Council
4-6 Darwin Close
Reading

Our Ref: 190852/TPO
Your Ref:

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

12 June 2019

Your contact
is: Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr Lee

**RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE WESTERN RED CEDAR TREE AT 3 ALLCROFT ROAD,
READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 80/06**

Thank you for your application of 24 May 2019 regarding the above.

Further to my visit of 12 June 2019, I have the following comments:

The tree is a mature specimen which appears to be in good physiological and structural health. It provides notable amenity value to the locality, being very visible from Kendrick Road and its height meaning the top of the crown is visible from Allcroft Road. It sits within a fairly verdant area, contributing to the overall tree coverage.

The reasons stated for the removal are that the tree has outgrown its position, taking a lot of the garden. However, it is considered that, given the above, felling is excessive as a solution when pruning works could be carried out to alleviate the concerns.

It is appreciated that the lack of work to the tree over the years, with no records of works since the 2006 TPO was made, means that the tree is wide spreading with branches low to the ground. There is scope to crown lift to give greater ground clearance, allow light under the canopy and to reduce any oppressive feel at ground level. In addition, there is scope to reduce the overall spread to reduce the dominance of the tree over both the applicant's and neighbours garden. As you are aware, reduction of conifers should be

approached with sensitivity to avoid leaving the tree with bare, foliage free, areas/branches following the works, albeit this species does re-grow when other conifers do not.

In conclusion, the proposed felling is refused. However, I can confirm that the following, lesser, works are approved subject to the conditions below:

- T1 Western red cedar – crown lift to 4-5m above ground level through 360° by removing only the smaller, low hanging branches less than 10cm in diameter ensuring the base of the crown is relatively even; reduce the lateral spread only by a maximum of 1-2m in all directions tapering the reduction to leave an appropriate crown shape for the species and ensuring that each branch /area of crown is assessed carefully to leave green growth remaining; crown clean by removing dead, dangerous, low vigour, crossing/rubbing branches.

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. 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

If you wish to appeal against any the Council's refusal of consent for felling or against any of the conditions attached to the consented 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

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Mr M Stokes, 3 Allcroft Road