



Mr. Richard Barnes
Newlyn
The Warren
Caversham
Berkshire
RG4 7TQ

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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Our Ref: 191700
Your Ref:

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20th November 2019

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr. Barnes,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO FELL A WEEPING WILLOW TO THE REAR OF NEWLYN,
CAVERSHAM - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 83/07**

Thank you for your application of dated 23rd November 2019 regarding the above.

You have applied to fell T3 of Tree Preservation Order 83/07 as you consider it is destroying the dock and is a hazard to navigation.

In your application you have ticked section 6.(2) which states that you are felling the tree due to alleged damage to property. The application form requires that if you are applying for works for this reason, then your application must be accompanied by the necessary evidence to support your proposals.

To date no detailed technical information has been submitted which demonstrates that the tree is destroying the dock or poses a hazard to navigation in support of this application. This application has therefore been determined based on my visual assessment of the health and condition of the tree.

I came to view the tree on 30th October 2019. I have identified the tree as being a healthy and well-formed Weeping Willow. As a wetland species, the Weeping willow is in keeping with riparian setting and the weeping form adds character and amenity to the river bank. The tree is visible in far reaching views along the Thames which is an existing 'Treed

corridor' within the Borough's adopted Tree Strategy and the Thames Path and Kings Meadows, an area of high public occupancy. The Borough Council seeks to enhance the trees along these designated 'Treed Corridors' with a commitment to protect the existing trees.

Whilst viewing the tree, I noted that there is some cracking in the paving and wall. However I did not see any indication that the dock is being destroyed nor that the removal of the tree is required in order to undertake the necessary repairs and renovations.

The graceful beauty of Weeping willow trees when planted adjacent to rivers means that the Weeping Willow has become a popular traditional tree for planting within the Thames landscape. There are many Weeping willows within the Reading Borough alone, planted adjacent to The Thames where their longer branches droop low into the water. This includes a number of trees on the opposite side of the bank which are under Council ownership. I am not aware of any other sites where Willows are considered to be causing unreasonable interference with the navigation of the river such that would jeopardise safe passage of the river or justify the complete removal of individual trees.

In view of this, your application to fell T3 (Weeping Willow) of Tree Preservation Order 873/07 is refused.

If you wish to appeal against the Council's decision on this matter, 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
Assistant Natural Environment Officer