



Miss E Eaton
44 Fircroft Close
Tilehurst
Reading
RG31 6LJ

Frances Martin
**Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services**

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Our Ref: 191057/TPO
Your Ref:

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

25 July 2019

Your contact
is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Miss Eaton

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE MULBERRY TREE AT 44 FIRCREFT CLOSE, READING - T1
OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER100/01.**

Thank you for your application of 1 July 2019, regarding the above.

As a Council employee, it was necessary for your application to be considered at Planning Applications Committee for determination. This was done on 17 July 2019 and Members were in agreement with the proposed work.

Further to my visit on 19 June 2019 and further to consideration of the proposal at Planning Applications Committee, I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

- T1 Mulberry – fell.

Officers have visited the tree on a number of occasions, following branch failure in October 2017 and more recently in June 2019. The structural integrity of the remaining tree is now highly questionable as a result of the historical branch loss and weight of the remaining main limbs leaving them liable to failure. Whilst the tree demonstrates good physiological health, the extensive work (reduction) that would be required to address the unacceptable hazard now presented by the tree would result in the tree's amenity

value being affected to the point that it would no longer be worthy of inclusion in the TPO. The tree has now reached a point where felling, whilst unfortunate, is a reasonable option. I note your intention to leave a 1.5m stump which is beneficial to wildlife and maintains a historical link; the trees location suggesting its original inclusion within the grounds of the 'Westwood House' that used to stand in the area.

As is reasonable in this case and as specifically requested by Committee, a replacement tree is required – please note condition 4 below.

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. Following the felling of the tree authorised by this consent, one replacement tree shall be planted within the front garden during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest, the species of which shall be agreed with the Council.

Planting should be carried out in accordance with clause 10 (Planting) of BS 8545:2014 'Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations'

Should the replacement tree be removed, die or become severely damaged or seriously diseased, all within 5 years of planting, it shall be replaced by a tree of a similar size and species to that originally planted. Modifications to the requirements of this condition must be agreed in writing with Reading Borough Council Natural Environment Team.

PLEASE NOTE: The requirement to replant is the responsibility of the tree owner even if the application was submitted by another person.

Reason: To retain the present visual amenity value of the area and ensure continuity of tree coverage.

Informatives

1. 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 of the conditions attached to this consent, please contact the Planning Inspectorate within 28 days of receipt of this letter to obtain the relevant forms:

The Environment Appeals Team, 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: 0117 372 8192

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Sara Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer