



Mr. Michael Gillet
24 St Peter's Hill
Caversham
Reading
Berkshire
RG4 7AX

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
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24th July 2019

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr. Gillet,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO A DEODAR CEDAR TO THE REAR OF 24 ST PETER'S HILL -
PROTECTED AS T2 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 124/09**

Thank you for your tree works application dated 8th July 2019 regarding the above.

You have applied to carry out works to the Cedar which was recommended by Kings Tree Care to remove deadwood and thin out the canopy and cut back several low branches over both 24 and 26 St Peter's Hill. Unfortunately the extent of the proposed canopy thin and branch reduction has not been specified by your contractor.

I visited your property on 17th July 2019 to look at the tree and discuss the proposed works. At our meeting, I took the opportunity to look at the Cedar and found it to be a healthy tree in a reasonable condition. You have advised me that the issue you were seeking to resolve with the tree work relates to the low crown and extended branches which shade you and your neighbour's property.

The proposed work you have applied for to 'thin' the canopy of the Cedar is not considered to be appropriate arboricultural management. Cedar trees do not have the form or branching density which would usually justify or respond well to a canopy thin. The work will create numerous pruning cuts throughout the canopy of the tree which would act as potential entry points for decay pathogens. The work is unlikely to improve any light through the canopy and certainly any perceived benefit will be short lived as the tree will quickly replace the foliage removed.

Furthermore, the removal of branches can also chance the oscillation of branches in high winds which in extreme cases can result in branch failure.

Therefore, I must advise you that your application to 'thin' the Cedar is refused as it is considered to be contrary to good arboricultural practice. As discussed at our meeting, consent has been granted for alternative works which are approved subject to the conditions below.

Approved Tree Works

T2 - Deodar Cedar

- Crown-lift, removing low level branches and stubs to a height of 4m (to the point of the large upper swept branch. This works is to include all branches up to and including (as the highest branch to be removed) the long lateral branch on the south-eastern side of the canopy which is low over the adjacent shrub bed within the garden of no. 24.
- Reduce extended lower lateral branches over the garden of 26 St. Peter's Hill by up to 2m back to within a natural looking compact canopy outline using nearest suitable reduction points.

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

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

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



Fig. 1 Approved line of canopy reduction over the garden of 26 St Peter's Hill.



Fig. 2 - Extent of permitted crown lift.