



Mrs. Julie Duff
14 Almond Drive
Caversham
Reading
Berkshire
RG4 6NH

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
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Our Ref: 191037
Your Ref:

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5th August 2019

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mrs. Duff,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO AN OAK AT THE FRONT OF 18 ALMOND DRIVE, PROTECTED AS T1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 45/01.

Thank you for your application dated 26th June 2019 regarding the above.

Your email of 4th July confirmed that you wished to remove the epicormic growth from the trunk of the tree, to crown lift the canopy to 5m and to thin the canopy by 15%; your email of 1st July indicating that the proposed works were due to the tree overhanging the driveway

I visited your property on 24th July 2019 and found the Oak to be a healthy tree in a reasonable condition. You have not provided any reasons why you wish to carry out the crown thinning but I have assumed that the work is proposed in order to alleviate shading and the overbearing nature of the tree in relation to your property.

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 matter of weeks. The crown thin would create numerous pruning cuts throughout the canopy which would act as potential entry points for decay pathogens. The canopy thin can also increase wind flow through the canopy, changing the oscillation of branches in high winds leaving branches more prone to breakage. 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.

Therefore, I must advise you that your application to thin the canopy of the tree by 15% is refused. Consent has been granted for the other works specified in your application which are approved subject to the conditions below.

Approved Tree Works

T1 - Oak

- Crown-lift outer branch tips to give 5m clearance from ground level using suitable reduction points to leave a natural looking canopy shape.
- Remove epicormic growth on the trunk.

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