

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

Dr. Mohammad Hashimzai
36 Russet Glade
Emmer Green
Reading
Berkshire
RG4 8UJ

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: 181152
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 374294
sarah.duckworth@reading.gov.uk

8th May 2019

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning and Building Control

Dear Dr. Hashimzai,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO A MULTI-STEM SYCAMORE AT 36 RUSSET GLADE,
CAVERSHAM, READING, RG4 8UJ PROTECTED AS T5 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER
NUMBER 21/02.**

I visited your property on 1st May 2019 to look at the Sycamore tree which, following the removal of ivy and debris at the base of the tree, has been found to have a number of historic stem wounds around the base.

Your Tree Preservation Order application did not include a specification of works which you wished to undertake to the tree, but on site you advised me that you did not want to remove the tree but that the number of defects have given you cause for concern.

Having viewed the tree, I have noted that it is a multi-stem group of trees two of which have large historic stem wounds on their lower trunks. In addition, the trees have had metal cabling attached between a number of branches which are now girdling and restricting the stems to which they are attached.

I have not undertaken a full health and safety inspection of the tree, but it is evident that if you wish to retain the tree, a reduction of the tree's canopy will be required in order to reduce the wind loading on the stem wounds and tight forks. We discussed a canopy reduction of 2-3m on site consent for which has been granted below. A climbing inspection to look at the condition of the cabling in the canopy and the points of attachment in the tree is also strongly advised.

If you would like to retain the tree for the near future then regular, detailed inspections are recommended to ensure that it is acceptable to retain the tree in this location. This may include a more detailed (level 3) assessment by a professional Arboricultural Consultant using a Picus Tomograph or Resistograph in order to determine the extent of decay.

I can also advise you that the condition of the tree means that the Borough Council is unlikely to refuse an application to remove the tree group completely should you wish to do so.

I can confirm that the following proposed works, as discussed at our meeting, are approved subject to the conditions below:

Approved Tree Works

T5 (Multi-stem Sycamore) - Reduce canopy by approximately 3m using nearest suitable reduction points to create a natural looking canopy outline.

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

3. The approved canopy reduction shall be undertaken in mid-late Summer (July - September) when the tree's energy reserves are at their height or during the Winter months of December - January during the period of dormancy.

Reason: Taking into account the tree's phenological cycle and in order to avoid any unnecessary detriment to the tree as a result of the pruning work.

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

4. The approved canopy reduction shall be undertaken in mid-late Summer (July - September) when the tree's energy reserves are at their height or during the Winter months of December - January during the period of dormancy.

Reason: Taking into account the tree's phenological cycle and in order to avoid any unnecessary detriment to the tree as a result of the pruning work.

5. Removal of any dead or dangerous protected tree: This does not require the formal consent of the Council. However you are required to give 5 days notice of the work where it is not an emergency, to allow the Council to agree that the proposed works are exempt from requiring consent. The exception is where works are 'urgently necessary to remove an immediate risk of serious harm', in which case you are required to give notice to the Council 'as soon as practicable after the works become necessary'.

Once felling of a dead or dangerous tree has been carried out, the owner has a duty under Section 201(b) of the Town & Country Planning Act to replant another tree of an appropriate size and species in the same place as soon as they reasonable can. This replacement tree will be covered by the existing Tree Preservation Order. The new tree would be subject to the same requirements for a tree works application if you intend to carry out works upon it in the future.

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,

Sarah Duckworth

Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer