

Mr. Stephen Arnold
Tree Solution Arboriculture Ltd.
23 Springdale
Finchampstead
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 4RZ

Giorgio Framilicco
Head of Planning,
Development & Regulatory
Services
Civic Offices, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

Our Ref: 190248/TPO
Your Ref:

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

27th February 2019

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr. Arnold,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES ON LAND AT BALMORE PARK, CAVERSHAM - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 62/14

Thank you for your application dated 10th February 2019 regarding the above.

You have applied to carry out a number of tree works operations to trees within the Woodland (1) to the rear of Ash Court, Beech Court and Larch Court.

As we discussed on the telephone, I have concerns regarding the proposed works to fell three Scots Pine (T5, T6 & T7). These are mature trees with a full canopy.

Although the Borough Council does not disagree with your assessment that the trees are in a poor physiological condition, the trees do retain some green foliage and are not technically dead. I accept that the cause of the decline has yet to be ascertained; however, whilst the trees are not yet dead, there does remain an opportunity for them to recover.

The trees are growing in a sheltered location within a low occupancy woodland. The trees are not considered unstable or decaying at this time. In view of this, the Borough Council considers that the trees are not hazardous and it is appropriate to retain the trees for now in order to determine whether this decline is terminal or if the trees can recover over time.

In view of this your application to fell T5, T6, T7 (Pines) is refused. We would recommend that you and your client continue to monitor the condition of the trees and the Borough Council will reconsider this decision via a new tree works application at any time if it appears that the decline of the tree(s) is terminal or the stability and safety of the trees

is undermined in any way.

I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

Approved works

- G1 Sycamore - Fell three trees in poor condition with extensive squirrel damage to ground level.
- T2 Sycamore - Reduce the branches growing towards Ash Court by 1m to give adequate clearance to property.
- T3 Beech - Poor condition tree with large stem wound - reduce the remaining stem to 3-4m stump.

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

Informatives

1. You are advised that this decision is valid for one pruning operation 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. 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

3. Tree work consents on land not owned by the applicant: It is strongly recommended that the owner of the tree be advised of any proposed works. The owner's permission must be sought if the tree works involve work past the boundary line. This consent does not in any way imply that this Council has informed the owner of sought permission or will condone the use of consents to force any landowner to grant such permission.

4. 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. Your intention to remove T4 (Dead stem) has been noted, thank you.

5. Trees not considered to be protected by the current Tree preservation order: Work can be carried out to the Leyland Cypress tree (T10) without the formal consent from this Council.

6. Prior to the severing of well-established Ivy at the base of the tree, it would be prudent to carry out an assessment of whether any of the stems of the Ivy are forming a natural brace above a suspected bark-included union

If you wish to appeal against the Council's refusal of consent to fell T5, T6 and T7, or against any of the conditions attached to the permitted works, 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

Sarah Duckworth
Assistant Natural Environment Officer

cc. Mr. Nick Holman, Chaney's Chartered Surveyors, Chiltern House, Marsack Street
Caversham RG4 5AP