

Mr Aaron Fraser
Roots to Shoots Tree Care
Arborfield
Berkshire
RG2 9QN

Our Ref: 182237/TPO
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440
sarah.duckworth@reading.gov.uk

30th January 2019

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr. Fraser,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES ON LAND AT PROGRESS THEATRE, THE MOUNT, READING AND SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 2/03.

Thank you for your application dated 19th December 2018 regarding the above.

In response to your application I have been to look at the trees in question. You have applied to undertake the following works:

- T2 (Lime) crown lift to 4m and to remove the epicormic growth
- T3 (Ash) Pollard due to failing limbs and becoming a safety hazard. You have advised that this work has been previously done as it's affecting the roof of the building and very entangled in BT wires roots are starting to damage the path.

As I advised you in my email on 7th January 2019, T3 (Ash) has a historic possible topping point at around 5m from which grow several mature branches however, I cannot see that the Ash (T3) has been pollarded at any point in the past and in view of this, your specification to pollard the tree is not considered appropriate tree management.

This is a broad, mature tree adjacent to the highway. There is a pronounced root skirt and the tree has a slight lean to the north. Structurally the tree appears sound; however, the tree has been tip-reduced in the past and has recovered poorly. There is a significant amount of deadwood in the tree's canopy and is considered to have moderate to low vitality. I have also noted that several branches are in contact with the roof of the theatre.

The proposed pollard is likely to cause further depletion in the trees energy reserves and is likely to accelerate the tree's decline. In addition, the large, multiple pruning cuts will

act as potential entry points for decay and the tree will become vulnerable to colonisation with *Inonotus hispidus* and other decay pathogens.

A significant reduction would also be detrimental to the amenity value of the tree as viewed from the public highway.

In light of these concerns, your application to pollard the Ash (T3) is considered contrary to good tree management and has been refused. Consent (subject to conditions) has been granted for lesser works to prune the tree in order to provide clearance to the property roof and clean the canopy removing any dead or dysfunctional branches as a result of this work. The work to the Lime (T2) is also acceptable in principle subject to conditions and consent for this work follows.

Approved tree works

- T2 (Lime) crown lift to 4m and to remove the epicormic growth
- T3 (Ash) Selectively prune secondary branches to give a minimum of 1.5m clearance to the building. Crown clean removing any dead / dangerous or dysfunctional branches as part of this work. Selectively prune secondary branches by up to 0.5m to clear phone lines 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

3. Crown cleaning should not include the removal of fused natural braces (branches or stems), or the removal of entwining branches or rubbing branches (where they may be forming a natural brace) from the crown of a semi-mature to fully mature tree without carrying out an assessment of any junctions formed below such natural braces.

Reason: Removal of natural braces may lead to failure of weak unions.

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. Removal of dead or dangerous wood: This does not require the formal consent of the Council. 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. 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.

If you wish to appeal against the Council's refusal of consent or against any of the conditions attached to the approved 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. Carol Brown, Progress Theatre, The Mount, Reading, Berkshire RG1 5HL