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Mr N Bowman
36 Devonshire Park
Reading
RG2 7DX

Our Ref: 181390/TPO
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440
Email: sarah.hanson@reading.gov.uk

17 September 2018

Your contact
is: Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr Bowman

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE WALNUT TREE AT 36 DEVONSHIRE PARK, READING - T34
OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 42/07.**

Thank you for your application of 8 August 2018, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on 14 September 2018, I can confirm the following:

As discussed, the Walnut tree is of poor form, with a kinked stem for the first few metres above ground level (then straightening) with a divided stem at the crown break, i.e. with no clear leading stem. It has also been crown lifted excessively, with foliage being confined to the top of the tree in a small crown.

You indicated that the previous owners may have received permission to fell the tree. Having looked at historic correspondence, I note that in 2005 we agreed that the tree was not worthy of a Tree Preservation Order due to it being a poor specimen. However, the tree was retained and, for clarification, as long as a protected tree is retained, permission will need to be sought for pruning, regardless of the Council's opinion of the tree. If you wished to apply for permission to fell the tree, it is likely that this would be looked upon favourably.

You have applied for permission to prune back several areas of foliage that overhang your driveway in order to prevent Walnuts from falling on your car. The work proposed will

remove a significant portion of the small crown and leave the tree one-sided affecting its appearance, which is already substandard, and potentially its health. This work would not be approved for a healthy, good specimen which we would wish to see retained long-term. However, as we do not consider this to be a tree worthy of a Tree Preservation Order any more, the proposed works, as detailed in your application and annotated on your supporting photographs, are approved subject to the conditions below.

You indicated that you primarily wished to retain the tree due to its function as screening from the adjacent flats. We discussed proactive replanting to establish a new tree(s) to provide screening if/when the Walnut is removed. Given the Walnut and adjacent conifer and Sycamores, establishing new trees will be difficult due to shade and competition. In terms of providing something to immediately provide screening if the Walnut was felled (subject to formal approval) you could select an evergreen tree provided with a clear stem to fence height (to limit horizontal space taken up), with the foliage at above fence height (referred to as a stilted screening) such as *Ligustrum japonicum* (Japanese Tree Privet), *Prunus laurocerasus* Novita (a form of Laurel) or *Magnolia grandiflora* (Southern magnolia).

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

3. This decision is valid for two years from the date of this notice after which the consent lapses

4. 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. 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'.

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 060 3900; enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

3. It is best to avoid works in winter (dormant season) or spring due to the potential of this species to bleed. Works are best carried out mid-summer to early autumn.

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 Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer